

# THE MILITANT

**INSIDE**  
**Castro speaks on anniversary**  
**of Bay of Pigs invasion**  
 — PAGES 8-9

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 60 NO. 22 JUNE 3, 1996

## 'Drought relief now! No farm foreclosures!'

**Socialist candidates hold national press conference  
Harris, Garza call for U.S., French troops to get out of Africa**

BY GREG McCARTAN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "Our campaign demands immediate government drought relief for working farmers, and a halt to farm foreclosures," said Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president James Harris at the National Press Club here. "Some 15 percent of farmers in Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas — and their counterparts in northern Mexico — face losing their farms.

"This is not a natural disaster," he said. "It is a result of the policies of the wealthy owners of the banks and industry, and the parties that represent them in Washington. None of our opponents — William Clinton, Robert Dole, Ralph Nader, or Ross Perot — have taken one move to aid working farmers. In fact, just the opposite is the case."

Harris and SWP candidate for vice president Laura Garza were joined at the May 22 press conference by Verónica Poses, a leader of the Young Socialists who is touring with Garza, building the Young Socialists for Harris and Garza. The national news network C-SPAN and Agence France Presse covered the event. NOTIMEX, a Mexican wire service, did a follow up interview with Martin Koppel, a candidate for U.S. Congress in New York State and a leader of the party's national campaign committee.

Harris pointed to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman's statement on the farm crisis that "the market is sometimes very cruel." This is an example of "how the bipartisan majority in Congress seeks to unload the burden of the crisis of capitalism onto the backs of workers and farmers worldwide. The labor movement must champion the interests of working farmers, who are our allies. They are producers who

Continued on Page 12



Inset: Militant/Brian Williams  
 Farmers in Oklahoma inspect devastated wheat field after the second-worst drought in history. Crops should be waist-high. James Harris, inset, called for end to foreclosures.

## 'Lift embargo on Iraq,' say SWP candidates

The statement below was released May 22 by James Harris and Laura Garza, Socialist Workers candidates for president and vice president of the United States.

The imperialist-crafted deal at the United Nations permitting Iraq to sell limited

amounts of oil to buy desperately needed food and medicines leaves the criminal, U.S.-engineered sanctions against the Iraqi people intact. The conditions imposed on Baghdad by it are a further violation of Iraq's sovereignty.

Working people around the world should

Continued on Page 14

## Dozens sign up for youth exchange to Cuba

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS  
AND BRIAN TAYLOR

NEW YORK — Some 75 students and other youth have applied to go to Cuba July 24-August 6 with the U.S.-Cuba Youth ex-

change, reported Lorena Gaibor, a student from New Brunswick, New Jersey. Gaibor was attending a meeting of the National Network on Cuba (NNOC), which is sponsoring the trip. The gathering took place here

May 18-19.

"Reports from around the country indicate there are at least 90 young people committed to go on the Youth Exchange so far," Gaibor said in an interview. One of the national coordinators of the NNOC task force organizing the trip, Gaibor is a member of the New Jersey Network on Cuba, which is working with students in New Brunswick and elsewhere in northern New Jersey to build participation in the exchange.

Leslie Cagan of the Cuba Information Project, which is organizing travel for the exchange, reported that the deadline for submitting applications has been extended to July 1. The Federation of University Students (FEU) in Cuba is fully hosting the trip, covering accommodations and other expenses on the island.

"The trip will make it possible for young people from this country to meet fellow students and workers in Cuba and find the facts about the Cuban revolution for themselves," Gaibor said. "Many of these youth will come back to report on their trip, write articles, speak on the radio, and get more involved in activities to oppose the U.S. economic war on Cuba."

Fifteen youth from 10 cities across the United States participated in the NNOC meeting, among the 80 people there representing many local and national affiliates of

Continued on Page 10

## 37,000 machinists strike in Norway

BY DAG TIRSEN  
AND BIRGITTA ISACSSON

DRAMMEN, Norway — "Not a single one of us has crossed the picket line. Though a majority at this factory voted 'yes' to the contract proposal, we are 100 percent behind the strike." That was the attitude of Aksel Ask, Leif Livudd, and Per Ask as they picketed the ABB Norsk Kabel plant here May 21.

The three are among the nearly 37,000 machinists who have been on strike at some 500 companies since May 13 over wages and pensions. It is the largest strike in the industry since 1924.

The workers, members of the Fellesforbundet union, voted down a contract proposal negotiated by the union offi-

Continued on Page 12

## Illinois state officials reject parole for Curtis

BY JOEL BRITTON

CHICAGO — Two dozen supporters of Mark Curtis met here May 21 to map out a response to a new denial of parole to Illinois for the unionist and political activist. Curtis has been imprisoned since 1988 on frame-up charges of attempted rape and burglary in Iowa.

Kate Kaku, Curtis's wife, reported on a telephone discussion she had earlier that day with Vivian Sneed, administrator of the Interstate Compact Office of the Illinois Department of Corrections. Kaku said that Sneed stated Curtis's parole to Illinois was denied because even though he was married, he lacked family and a "support network" here. She also said that Curtis would be classified as a "sex offender" and he did not have a "plan" regarding counseling.

Kaku remarked that Sneed said Illinois officials had agreed to a request from Iowa authorities to reconsider this latest denial. In March Curtis was turned down for parole by Illinois officials on the grounds that he was not married. The Iowa Board of Parole had granted his request to be released to Illinois last November. Sneed said a panel of three corrections officials would meet on May 28 to make a ruling. She said they would consider any materials Kaku submits.

John Studer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, proposed that Chicago area supporters of Curtis take advantage of the week before the meeting to demonstrate to the Illinois officials that Curtis has many supporters here who will actively assist his efforts to return to post-prison life. Supporters turned the rest of the evening into a work meeting to begin acting on this proposal.

Kaku will present Illinois officials with statements reaffirming a number of job offers for Curtis and showing that he will be covered by the medical plan where she works, as well as letters from local supporters.

### Get your application in now for the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange July 24 - August 6

The National Network on Cuba is organizing a delegation of young people and students from around the United States for a two-week trip to Cuba this summer. The group will spend most of its time in the provinces of Santiago and Guantánamo, with a few days in Havana at the end of the trip. In addition to time spent working with Cubans, participants will visit factories, farms, historic sites, and other places of interest.

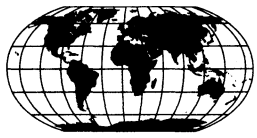
The Youth Exchange is open to people between the ages of 15 and 35. The cost is \$855 from Montreal, \$600 from Nassau, Bahamas.

Applications for the trip are due by July 1.



For more information contact:

**National Network on Cuba**  
 c/o Cuba Information Project  
 198 Broadway, Suite 800  
 New York, NY 10038  
 Phone: 212-227-3422  
 Fax: 212-227-4859



## Rightist to form gov't in India

Atal Bihari Vajpayee, head of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), was named prime minister in India May 15. The BJP won 190 seats in the 545 seat parliament in the recent elections, the highest total for any party. The Congress Party, which has ruled India for all but four years since the country won independence, took 139 seats, its worst showing ever. The National Front-Left Front bloc tried but failed to put together a coalition government before President Shankar Dayal Sharma named Vajpayee prime minister. After naming a cabinet, the BJP government will still need to win a vote of confidence.

The BJP has pledged to openly acquire nuclear weapons, threatened to revoke a constitutional amendment granting autonomy to the state of Jammu and Kashmir on the border with Pakistan, and demands the return of parts of Kashmiri territory that India lost to Pakistan in war. Its leaders have a long history of scapegoating Muslims, claiming they are more loyal to Pakistan than to India. BJP supporters were among those who organized the destruction of a 16th-century mosque at Ayodhya in 1992 and subsequent anti-Muslim riots that killed 3,000. Vajpayee said his government will accelerate the privatization of state enterprises and continue implementing social cuts to reduce the fiscal deficit.

## Shell ignored pollution of Nigeria

The oil giant Royal Dutch Shell ignored internal reports that its Nigerian refineries had caused huge amounts of environmental damage and broken international environmental standards, according to Bopp van Dessel, who worked for Shell in 1992. "They were not meeting international standards. Any Shell site that I saw was polluted," Van Dessel said. He added that for 35 years Shell Nigeria had no waste treatment facility, no adequate land fill site, and no incinerator.

Recently Shell has been linked to the Nigerian government's execution of Ken Saro-wiwa and eight other Ogoni activists who were fighting for land and against the environmental destruction of their region by the



Bus drivers in Cologne picket their depot May 20. The OTV public service union, representing 3.2 million workers in Germany, waged warning strikes throughout the country to press demands for a 4.5 percent wage increase. Employers in Germany seek longer working hours and a wage freeze.

oil industry. Shell Nigeria has a 45 percent stake in a plant on Ogoni land.

## Libya responds to U.S. threats

The General Congress of the World Islamic People's Leadership announced May 15 that Libya will send "millions of Muslims" to guard a site that Washington alleges is an underground chemical weapons plant. The group said the presence was necessary "to confront the hostile threats by America to strike at this tunnel with nuclear bombs." U.S. defense secretary William Perry has repeatedly stated that Washington will not let Tripoli start up the plant, and has threatened using military force to stop it. The Libyan government insists the facility is part of an irrigation network.

## Washington, Tokyo again reject food aid for North Korea

Washington and Tokyo announced May

14 they would not provide any food aid to North Korea until the Pyongyang government agrees to participate in talks that include the South Korean regime. The North Korean government appealed for international assistance after severe flooding destroyed much of the rice crop last summer. Pyongyang announced in April it no longer would respect the armistice agreement that ended the Korean war in 1953, citing provocations by Washington and Seoul, and called on Washington to hold bilateral negotiations.

## NATO debates ousting Karadzic

"As long as [Radovan] Karadzic remains in power, we can't expect the elections to come out the way we want," Michael Steiner, a top official in charge of implementing civilian components of the Dayton accords in Bosnia, said in mid-May. Karadzic is the chauvinist Bosnian Serb leader who heads the "Republika Srpska" carved out of Bosnia. Steiner asked the Belgrade government, Washington, and the other NATO powers occupying Bosnia to remove or sharply limit the power of Karadzic.

On May 15 Karadzic fired the prime minister of Republika Srpska, Rajko Kasagic. Within 24 hours NATO officials met with Kasagic and indicated they support him as head of the Bosnian Serb government. Karadzic is under indictment for alleged war crimes, but has not been arrested. An article in the May 17 *New York Times* stated, "Although Dr. Karadzic's critics can be withering in their attacks, they do not control the police, the ruling party or the military, the three main power bases in Serb-held Bosnia." The *Times* also cited unnamed "western diplomats" as having warned the

Serbian president that he risks renewed sanctions if he lets Karadzic into Serbia.

## Bulgarian gov't to shut plants

The government of Bulgaria announced the closure of 67 companies employing 29,000 workers May 13, and raised interest rates to 108 percent, saying these moves would shore up the national currency. Job losses could reach 60,000 when the restructuring of companies that cannot be shut down, like the state railways, is taken into account. Bulgaria has traditionally been an exporter of wheat, but there are reports now of shortages of bread in some parts of the country.

There have been protests at some of the threatened enterprises. In one case, workers and managers at Bulgaria's second largest oil refinery held a rally the second week of May to protest the shut-down of their plant.

## Italian airline to cut 3,000 jobs

The chief executive of the Italian state airline Alitalia, Domenico Cempella, announced plans to cut about 3,000 jobs over the next five years — 17 percent of the workforce. He told unions that the airline "might not survive 1996" without cutting costs and receiving new capital. Cempella outlined other "restructuring" proposals. Union officials said that the announcement contained "many very negative elements" and warned that making employees work more hours will jeopardize safety. Workers at Alitalia have taken a number of job actions over the last year, including walk-outs by pilots and flight attendants.

## Family farms plummet in France

The number of family farms in France has declined by 66,000 since 1993, according to the Ministry of Agriculture. At the end of 1995 there were only 734,800 farms. One million people farm in France — less than 2 percent of the population. A century ago, nearly half of France's population made their living by farming. The ministry's survey showed that the size of an average farm in France is increasing due to buyouts by larger landholders. Farms in France are now 10 percent larger than in 1993.

## Nicaragua gov't deploys troops

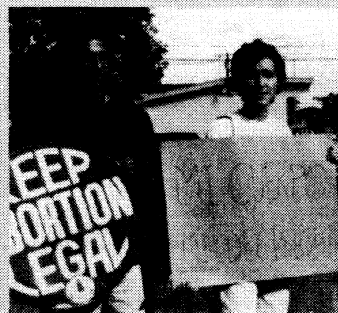
Gen. Joaquin Cuadra announced May 11 a plan to send 5,000 troops to northern Nicaragua to put down small and scattered armed groupings in the region. Cuadra said this was needed to enable the region's 300,000 residents to register and vote in the October 20 elections. He said the troops will be deployed immediately and stay at least until the end of the year to protect the coffee harvest. About 1,000 former rebels of the 1980s war between the revolutionary Sandinista government and the U.S.-backed Contras have rearmed.

— MEGAN ARNEY

# THE MILITANT

## Defend women's rights

*From affirmative action to a abortion rights, the fight for women's rights is key to building solidarity in the labor movement. The 'Militant' brings you coverage of protests, rallies, and debates in the fight for equality by women. Don't miss a single issue!*



## SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

### NEW READERS

☐ \$10 for 12 issues

☐ \$15 for 12 weeks

### RENEWAL

☐ \$27 for 6 months

☐ \$45 for 1 year

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT, 410 WEST ST., NEW YORK, NY 10014.

12 weeks of the *Militant* outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, \$A15 • Britain, £7 • Canada, Can\$12 • Caribbean and Latin America, \$15 • Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, £8 • Belgium, 375 BF • France, FF80 • Iceland, Kr1,300 • New Zealand, NZ\$15 • Sweden, Kr75 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

## The Militant

Vol. 60/No. 22

Closing news date: May 23, 1996

Editor: NAOMI CRAINE

Business Manager: NAOMI CRAINE

Editorial Staff: Megan Arney, Hilda Cuzco, Laura Garza, Martin Koppel, Argiris Malapanis, Brian Taylor, and Maurice Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in December and three weeks in July by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Telephone: (212) 243-6392; Fax (212) 924-6040.

The Militant can be reached via CompuServe at: 73311.2720 or via Peacenet at: themilitant Internet: 73311.2720@compuserve.com or: themilitant@igc.apc.org

The Militant can be accessed on the internet at: gopher://gopher.igc.apc.org:70/11/pubs/militant

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Second-class postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Subscriptions: U.S.: for one-year subscription send \$45 to above address. Latin America,

Caribbean: for one-year subscription send \$65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first-class (airmail), send \$80. Asia: send \$80 drawn on a U.S. bank to 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Canada: Send Canadian \$75 for one-year subscription to Militant, 4581 St. Denis, Montreal, Quebec H2J 2L4. Britain, Ireland: £36 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution, 47 The Cut, London, SE1 8LL, England. Continental Europe, Africa, Middle East: £40 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution at above address. France: Send FF300 for one-year subscription to Militant, 8 allée Berlioz, 94800 Villejuif cheque postale: 25-465-01-S, Paris. Belgium: BF 1,900 for one year on account no. 000-1543112-36 of 1Mei Fonds/Fonds du 1 mai, 2140 Antwerp. Iceland: Send 5,000 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to Militant, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: 500 Swedish kronor for one year. Pay to Militant Swedish giro no. 451-32-09-9. New Zealand: Send New Zealand \$90 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand. Australia: Send Australian \$75 to P.O. Box K879, Haymarket, NSW 2000, Australia. Pacific Islands: Send New Zealand \$90 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.



# United Nations official proposes Liberia takeover

BY BRIAN TAYLOR

Washington is stepping up its probes for direct military intervention in Liberia. United Nations officials "are strongly proposing that Liberia be taken over by the U.N. as a trust territory," James Jonah, former UN undersecretary-general for political affairs, said May 16.

Meanwhile U.S. battleships have moved in close to the Liberian shore over the last few weeks, and increasingly U.S. politicians, commentators, and the big-business media are pressing for direct intervention in the West African country. A May 12 *New York Times* article asserted that "many in West Africa feel that the United States, long the dominant foreign influence over Liberian politics, has badly skirted its duty to help the crisis." One senior West African official reportedly told the *Times*, "There is no substitute for a strong American role in a situation like this."

Even Liberian celebrities are being used to call for U.S. intervention. "The United Nations should come in and take over Liberia, not temporarily, but for life," said international soccer star George M. Weah. "The alternative is just letting us die as a people."

Tens of thousands of refugees have fled Liberia since an upturn in fighting in a six-year civil war.

Two major forces are at war in Liberia — the National Patriotic Front, led by Charles Taylor and currently in power, and the forces

led by Roosevelt Johnson, a member of the former national army under the previous regime of the late Samuel Doe.

A "peacekeeping" force called ECOMOG, made up of soldiers from nine West African nations, was started with a stated task of demobilizing and disarming both Liberian groups and to create stability. The 8,000-member force has not brought peace. Reports from civilians in Liberia show that ECOMOG, if anything, is an integral part of the violence, corruption, and gangsterism in Liberia.

While Ghanaian deputy foreign minister Mohamed Ibon Chambas described ECOMOG as "doing everything possible to create a safe haven" for devastated civilians, an article in the *Washington Post* stated that during recent fighting reporters saw "the peacekeepers loading one of their trucks with clothing removed from a downtown shop." Some Liberians say the word ECOMOG stands for "Everything that Could Move is Gone."

ECOMOG troops have also been accused of selling arms to rival camps, looting food, and generally harassing civilians. A UN official described the troops as "not motivated, not rotated and not paid enough." The Nigerian government, which provides a substantial percentage of forces in Liberia, has not paid its soldiers in four months.

"For the longest time, we watched as ECOMOG robbed our country and we just accepted it as the price of peace," said

George Boley, Liberia's vice-president of the Council of State, "They have not been able to keep the peace and they still want to rob us. Maybe they should just go back home."

## Refugees kept at sea

The civil war, in which some 150,000 have died, has caused a massive exodus from Liberia. Thousands have boarded fishing boats and barges hoping to get asylum elsewhere in the West Africa. One overcrowded boat with 2,000 refugees remained at sea for ten days. In country after country it was rejected, urged to return to Liberia, and left adrift on the Atlantic. This vessel, the *Bulk Challenge*, has one toilet. Disease and sicknesses were rampant aboard the ship and since the ship was not a passenger vessel there were too few accommodations.

Passengers said they were forced by ECOMOG to pay \$75 to board the ship. The times aid was given to those aboard the boat it was immediately seized by ECOMOG and sold at very high prices. In Ghana, ten days after the boat set sail and the brutal ordeal began, under much international pressure,

those refugees who the government deemed "eligible" were granted asylum.

In another development involving imperialist military intervention in Africa, about 1,000 French troops along with tanks spread across the capital of the Central African Republic May 20. Three French soldiers were killed as Paris sought to crush an army revolt. The French troops were mobilized from bases in the Central African Republic and other neighboring countries to rescue the regime of President Ange-Félix Patassé.



# More facts revealed about ValuJet catastrophe

BY RACHELE FRUIT

MIAMI — Since the May 11 crash of ValuJet flight 592 in the Florida Everglades, more facts about negligence by the airline industry and complicity by the government are coming to light. CNN reported May 18 that only 31 percent of people polled said that they had confidence in the safety of low-cost carriers and only 54 per cent maintained confidence in the major carriers. An NBC news report the same day said that 53 per cent of those polled would not fly ValuJet.

The spotlight on ValuJet has revealed the risks that the airlines and government overseers have been willing to take with the lives of passengers and crews. The May 20 issue *Newsweek* magazine published an essay by Mary Fackler Schiavo, inspector general of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Schiavo said, "In more than five years, we have found serious deficiencies in airline inspections, parts and training, and in the air-traffic-control system." She added, "like many Americans who are reading more and more about failing air-traffic systems, near misses and disasters like the ValuJet and the unsolved 737 crashes in Pittsburgh and Colorado Springs, I don't like to fly."

Following the crash, which killed all 110 people on board, the media reported that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) had issued three internal reports detailing problems at ValuJet, all before the May 11 disaster.

The FAA, which has the stated dual purpose of regulating aviation safety and promoting the airline industry, placed ValuJet under special scrutiny in February after six accidents occurred in six weeks.

Despite the fact that ValuJet's fleet consisted almost entirely of old airplanes, the FAA made no structural inspections of the planes for two years. A February 14 report issued by the agency acknowledged that this area had been "severely overlooked."

According to an article in the May 18 *New*

*York Times*, "Inspections on the airline's manuals and procedures were also neglected... at one point ValuJet was training DC-9 crews with manuals meant for other airplanes."

The February 14 report also said that the airline lacked "adequate policies and procedures for the maintenance personnel to follow," and it recommended that the FAA consider "recertification of this airline."

At one news conference Anthony J. Broderick, the FAA's associate administrator for regulation and certification, said the agency never grounded ValuJet because the company's problems never demonstrated "systemic safety violations."

A second report, prepared by the Atlanta inspector's office, "found an increased number of unfavorable reports on maintenance and 'a significant decrease in experience level of new pilots being hired by ValuJet as well as other positions such as mechanics, dispatchers, etc.," the *Times* reported.

The third report contained an analysis of the rate of accidents of low-cost carriers per 100,000 departures, compared with the rate for major, higher-cost carriers. This report, made public on May 16 by the *Chicago Tribune*, did reveal that ValuJet had a higher accident rate than the other low-cost carriers. But in the FAA's final version of that report, released later the same day, the agency asserted that "contrary to the assessment of *The Tribune*, the figures did not show major differences between the two groups of airlines."

## Plane carried hazardous load

According to investigators, the cause of the May 11 ValuJet crash may not be known for months. But they are searching for the origin of a possible fire on board the plane, and for the truth about the handling of hazardous oxygen canisters in the cargo bin.

Vernon Grose, a former employee of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and of Boeing, was quoted in the *Miami Herald* May 17 suggesting a fire could have been sparked by the cockpit wire bundles, whose insulation would have been worn by 27 years of use. He said that despite all the maintenance and repair required of older jets, the wiring doesn't have to be replaced. According to the *Post*, the FAA estimated the cost of rewiring the wires as \$220 and 3.5 hours work for each plane.

There has been discussion among safety officials for years about the transporting of the oxygen generating canisters that were listed on the cargo manifest of ValuJet flight 592. The ValuJet oxygen canisters were removed from an MD-80 aircraft and turned over to ValuJet for disposal by employees

at SaberTech, a non-union maintenance company that did work for ValuJet.

The May 17 *Herald* reported that a shipping ticket dated May 10 referred to the canisters as empty, but that Gregory Feith of the NTSB said some SaberTech employees thought that some of the cans had not been discharged of their chemical contents.

A May 16 statement by the FAA stated that ValuJet had not had the proper training to haul hazardous materials and was not authorized to do so.

In Miami, discussion on the crash continues. For example Aerothrust, an engine repair shop that does work for ValuJet, is included in the FAA investigation. The company has also been named in a wrongful death lawsuit filed on behalf of the son of one of the victims. The company officers have appealed to the workers in the plant and members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) not to speak to reporters or anyone about the crash. They said,

"We speak with one voice, in consultation with our lawyers."

Some workers share the company's concern, saying that even if the company comes out clean through all the investigations, that "our" name will have been associated with a disaster, and that's not good for business.

Others look at it differently. "No, we don't speak with one voice. The workers speak for safety, no matter what the cost, and the bosses speak for profit," said one machinist.

Meanwhile, an incident involving an American Trans Air flight to St. Petersburg, Florida, was also reported in the days following the ValuJet crash. As a result of a loss of cabin pressure, the pilot passed out, but regained consciousness in time to make an emergency landing in Indianapolis.

*Rachele Fruit is a member of IAM Local 1126 at the AeroThrust jet engine repair shop in Miami. She is the Socialist Workers candidate for Mayor of Dade County.*

# 3,000 workers hold two-day general strike in Paraguay

BY MEGAN ARNEY

Workers in Paraguay held a two-day general strike May 2-3. They demanded a 31 percent wage increase and condemned the Juan Carlos Wasmosy administration's policy of privatizing public companies and ending government social security guarantees. Organizers say 95 percent of the workforce joined the stoppage nationwide while the government claims only 30 percent participated.

Among the May 2 actions was a demonstration by 3,000 workers in downtown Asunción, the capital. The workers burned a coffin marked "Wasmosy lies here."

The first day of the general strike was marked by large clashes between unionized workers and the police in Asunción. The battles were sparked by the arrest of Alan Flores, president of the United Workers Trade Union (CUT); Eduardo Ojeda, head of the National Workers Federation (CNT); and other union leaders who cops accused of "disrupting public order." The strikers defended themselves with sticks and stones, as police unleashed their truncheons and fired guns to disperse the workers.

In response to the trade unionists' arrests, workers at the public utility and local telephone companies threatened to suspend public services. The union officials were re-

leased on May 3.

Police Superintendent General Mario Saprizza admitted there were "excesses typical of this type of event," but justified the repression, arguing that the police were incited to react. When asked by reporters why the cops fired on the strikers, Saprizza said, "You will not believe me, but the police used their weapons in a way that was impossible to injure anyone." Some 130 people were wounded during the strike, according to the First Aid Hospital.

As part of the general strike, 95 percent of teachers walked out, 64 companies announced an endorsement of the strike, and 40 percent of the Antelco (National Telecommunications Administration) observed the strike nationwide. More than 80 percent of the shops in and around the center of the city remained closed, and classes at state schools were suspended both days.

On the second day of the strike a rally was held in which peasants participated for the first time. Seven thousand rallied in Asunción May 3 at a rally at Democracy Square to wind up the action.

In other developments, Wasmosy announced May 7 the removal of several generals loyal to former Army Commander Gen. Lino Cesar Oviedo, who had failed in a coup attempt the previous month.

## Correction

The statement on the ValuJet plane crash issued by Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate James Harris and SWP congressional candidate Janet Post, which appeared in the May 27 *Militant*, incorrectly said that USAir had announced layoffs of thousands of workers. The sentence should have said that USAir "announced maintenance layoffs and cutbacks, including the elimination of Miami as a maintenance station the same week as the ValuJet crash."

# 'We are alternative to capitalist politics'

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "Aren't you James Harris? Well, I'm sure glad to meet you," stated one young Latino activist who joined a May 17 delegation welcoming the Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate to this city. He signed up as a Young Socialist for Harris and Garza to help campaign for the SWP presidential candidate and his running mate, Laura Garza.

A couple of dozen workers on break from cleaning and loading planes for Northwest Airlines spoke to Harris. Several approached with their questions ready. "I just want to know one thing: do you think you're going to win?" asked one. "Do you think the U.S. hostility against Cuba is going to end?" and "How can we go to Cuba to see the situation for ourselves?" asked others.

Harris, who had just returned from attending the conference of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers, answered these questions and shared his experiences. "You learn from the Cuban revolution that workers can run society," he stated. "It is a country where the welfare of working people is placed first."

At a public talk held May 18, Harris expounded on the main themes of his campaign. "The socialist alternative in this campaign is a working-class alternative to capitalist politics in this country and the world today," he stated. "We're out to build a political movement of intelligent, fighting workers who can discuss, lead, and organize themselves to take political power."

Pointing to the recent resignation of Republican presidential candidate Robert Dole from the Senate, Harris stated, "Dole resigned because the so-called Republican revolution, which was to be carried out in 100 days, was a complete failure." As cutbacks in various social programs were imposed, it met more resistance from working people. "Dole departed as a way of getting away from this. But he has nothing fundamentally different to say than what Clinton is saying."

Two signed up to join the Young Socialists for Harris and Garza. An appeal for funds netted \$350 in contributions.



Militant/Brian Williams

SWP candidate James Harris talking to youth at rally for Mumia Abu-Jamal.

The socialist presidential candidate also received a friendly response from activists attending the march here demanding freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal May 20.

Campaign supporters distributed a statement issued by Harris and Garza demanding, "Free Mumia Abu-Jamal." It pointed out, "The cops, courts, prisons, and death rows are tools of the wealthy ruling class that have one purpose — to repress, divide, intimidate, and terrorize working people — to force them to accept their place in capitalist society with its inequalities and oppression."

Several days prior to Harris's arrival, socialist campaign supporters joined a protest of hundreds of people outside a public hearing called by the school board to discuss plans to close seven public schools in the district by the end of June.

A statement released by the local Socialist Workers candidates — Sam Manuel for delegate to the House, Mary Martin for U.S. Senate, and Brian Williams for City Council — was eagerly read by many in attendance. Headlined, "Education is a Right!

Stop the School Closings and Cutbacks," it stated in part, "Under the guise of cutting the city's budget deficit, the ruling rich are attempting to dismantle the public school system.... By cutting jobs and funds for education and health care the financial control board and their masters in Congress are attempting to make working people pay for the profits crisis of the ruling rich." A couple of days later the board ratified the closures and plans to shut five others by June 1997.

BY STEPHEN BLOODWORTH  
AND RAY PARSONS

CHICAGO — At a public meeting culminating Laura Garza's campaign tour here, a young campaign supporter asked the SWP vice presidential candidate, "What vested interest would a more highly paid union worker have in campaigning to raise the minimum wage?"

Garza responded that a fight for a livable wage is in the interests of all workers. Since wages are set from the bottom up, "with a low minimum wage, they want us to feel lucky when we get \$6.00 per hour. A low minimum wage is used as a club against more highly paid workers who may strike — they must be greedy. And we are pressured to accept bad conditions on jobs we have, over the alternative of an unlivable minimum wage job."

This discussion on fighting for the unity of the working class prompted another young participant to ask why so many Mitsubishi auto workers attended a pro-company rally at the Chicago office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission April 22. The company is facing one of the largest class-action sexual harassment lawsuits ever filed in response to abuse suffered by women working at the automaker's

plant in Normal, Illinois.

Kristin Meriam, Socialist Workers candidate for the 4th Congressional District in Illinois, spoke on the platform with Garza and took up this question.

"Workers were pressured by the company to attend, but it was a spirited rally," Meriam said. "The union needs to take up the cause of the women workers who filed the suit, and lead the fight for equality in the workplace. In the absence of this many auto workers there echoed the company's line that this suit jeopardized their jobs."

A message from Mark Curtis, a socialist and union activist awaiting parole from Iowa State Penitentiary in Fort Madison, was read at the campaign meeting.

Garza's tour of Chicago included speaking at a class studying Chicana activism at DePaul University. Two young women who work at the Center for Latino Research there signed up for information on the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange trip to Cuba in July. Later campaign supporters took Garza to a picket protesting several recent cases of police brutality.

Three workers signed up for more information on the socialist campaign when seven supporters rallied with Garza at the Ford Torrence Assembly plant on Chicago's south side.

**Below are excerpts of the message sent to the Socialist Workers campaign rally in Chicago from Mark Curtis on May 18, 1996.**

Laura Garza and the Socialist Workers campaign reached into the Iowa State Penitentiary this week. A fellow prisoner and I were able to ask her by phone about her ideas. He and I will be getting together tomorrow to discuss the *Militant* article on her campaign....

When 1,300 Des Moines meatpackers are suddenly thrown out on the street, when 70 immigrant packers are deported from Storm Lake, Iowa, and when over 100 people are killed in a ValuJet plane crash all in the same week, we don't need Democratic or Republican "informercials" about family values or crime bills that butcher our democratic rights.

We need scientific explanations of the route to our emancipation as an international working class....

Every fighter will find in our election campaign and on Pathfinder's shelves irreplaceable lessons, history, and theory that, as they engage in struggle, will help to transform their thinking into that of a revolutionary politician and leader.

In addition to the boldness of our socialist ideas, my friend here was inspired at the audacity and confidence of a working-class Chicana running for vice president. This confidence is what is to be gained by joining the Socialist Workers campaign.

Mark Curtis

## Youth join campaign trail

BY SIMONE BERG

NEWARK, New Jersey — Going into the fourth week of the drive to raise \$90,000 for the Socialist Workers 1996 national election campaign, contributions received at the campaign offices in New York as of May 21 added up to \$17,254. As the chart accompanying this article shows, total pledges fall \$4,800 short of the national goal.

Supporters in Twin Cities and Philadelphia are sending weekly contributions to the campaign headquarters and staying ahead of schedule. In both areas, they are also calling a broad layer of contacts, coworkers,

youth, and other activists to insure that they can surpass their goals.

The Young Socialists have decided to put two members of its National Committee, Tom Alter and Verónica Poses, on the road to campaign alongside the socialist presidential ticket of James Harris and Laura Garza.

They will help build the Young Socialists for Harris and Garza, and put campaign backers in the best position to attract and win students, workers, and other youth to the campaign. During Garza's recent campaign stop in Chicago, for instance, she and Poses met students at Lane Tech High School where they discussed politics at a literature table outside the school. Two youth signed up for more information on the campaign.

"Having these two young leaders join the national speaking tour strengthens the campaign," said Luis Madrid, who helps to coordinate the fund drive nationally. "But it also means increased expenditures, making the fund drive more important than ever."

At a fund-raiser during Garza's Chicago visit, the appeal for pledges was led by Frankie Travis, who was part of the fight against concessions at A.E. Staley in Decatur, Illinois. Travis explained how the experience transformed him "from someone who voted Democrat to a supporter of the *Militant*," the campaign newspaper.

Supporters in Peoria have taken the campaign to members of the United Auto Workers in their area. Seven workers at a Caterpillar foundry bought copies of the *Militant* from a recent campaign team. Several received the campaign brochure with great interest, and many who drove by gave campaigners the thumbs up.

Johanna Ryan, a supporter of the socialist ticket there, explained that was one of the ways they were "warming up" for Harris's upcoming visit there.

Socialist Workers campaign backers coast-to-coast are also planning events for Memorial Day weekend. These events can play a pivotal role in making the fund goals in full and on time.

Contribute to the Socialist Workers 1996 Campaign Fund			
Area	Goal	Paid	Percent
Philadelphia	4,500	2,651	59%
Twin Cities	5,000	2,431	49%
Detroit	3,500	1,435	41%
Pittsburgh	5,000	1,800	36%
Des Moines	600	211	35%
Miami	2,000	440	22%
San Francisco	10,000	1,983	20%
Peoria	1,200	210	18%
Washington, D.C.	2,000	340	17%
Newark	5,000	830	17%
Birmingham	3,200	495	15%
Brooklyn	7,000	1,070	15%
Seattle	5,000	760	15%
Houston	2,000	300	15%
Los Angeles	8,000	1,027	13%
Boston	3,500	370	11%
New York	7,000	556	8%
Atlanta	2,000	150	8%
Cleveland	1,200	25	2%
Chicago	5,000	0	0%
Morgantown	500	0	0%
Salt Lake	2,000	0	0%
Greensboro	0	150	
Other		20	
TOTAL	85,200	17,254	19%
SHOULD BE	90,000	38,700	43%

## Hundreds in D.C. demand new trial for Abu-Jamal

BY JANICE LYNN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Hundreds rallied here May 20 to support a new trial for Black rights activist Mumia Abu-Jamal. In a march to the U.S. Justice Department chants of "Free Mumia" and "No Justice, No Peace" filled the streets. Thousands of letters had been gathered over the last several months calling on Attorney General Janet Reno to conduct a civil rights investigation into the violations of Abu-Jamal's civil and human rights since his arrest in 1981. Organizers of the campaign say such action on the part of the Justice Department could lead to a new trial and acquittal.

In 1981 Abu-Jamal was framed up for the shooting death of a Philadelphia police officer. He was convicted and sentenced to death in 1982. He has become an international symbol in the fight against the death penalty. Last August 7, just 10 days shy of being put to death, Abu-Jamal was granted an indefinite stay of execution as a result of worldwide protests.

Many young people traveled here from nearby states. "I came here today because I am adamantly opposed to the death penalty," said 22-year-old Montserrat Caballero from Greensboro, North Carolina. "What hap-

pened to Mumia happens to people like him every day. The point is Mumia is a fighter and a revolutionary."

"We need more actions like this," commented Jessica Cabrera, 19, from Jersey City, New Jersey, "and a lot more people and a lot more attention to the case."

Buses came from Brooklyn, New York, and Philadelphia and individuals attended from as far away as Tampa, Florida; Bowling Green, Ohio; Berlin, Germany; and Paris, France, where 4,000 petitions signatures in defense of Abu-Jamal were collected and delivered.

In a message to the demonstration, Abu-Jamal said, "These many letters are expressions and appeals for that which is most fundamental in man: for justice."

**Campaign for the Socialist Alternative!**

For information contact:  
Socialist Workers 1996 Campaign  
P.O. Box 2652  
New York, NY 10009



SELL THE BOOKS WORKERS OF THE WORLD NEED

Join the campaign to sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

Distributors of the *Militant* and Pathfinder books have set June 1-9 as a target week of sales. The aim is to get ahead that week with extra sales of Pathfinder books on the job, in working-class communities, and on campuses and use the momentum generated to meet all the book campaign goals in June. The extra push is also necessary to meet the goals of the *Militant* subscription drive.

Sales of Pathfinder books go hand in hand with efforts to win new subscribers to the *Militant* and its Spanish-language sister publication *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Socialist workers from Seattle demonstrated this in practice last week, as they put the book and subscription campaigns at the center of ongoing work in defense of the Cuban revolution. "Sign Up and Go to Cuba!" read the banner over their table at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. Several students signed up for more information on the July 24-August 6 Youth Exchange trip to Cuba, Robbie Scherr reports.

Sales for two days totaled \$100 in Pathfinder titles, 2 copies of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*, and 8 introductory subscriptions to the *Militant*. In addition, they signed up a new member for the Pathfinder Reader Club. (Scherr's report came by E-mail; the subscriptions themselves, coming via a slower route, didn't arrive on time to be added to the chart.)

Socialist auto workers found a similar response on the job at the General Motors assembly plant in Tarrytown, New York, last

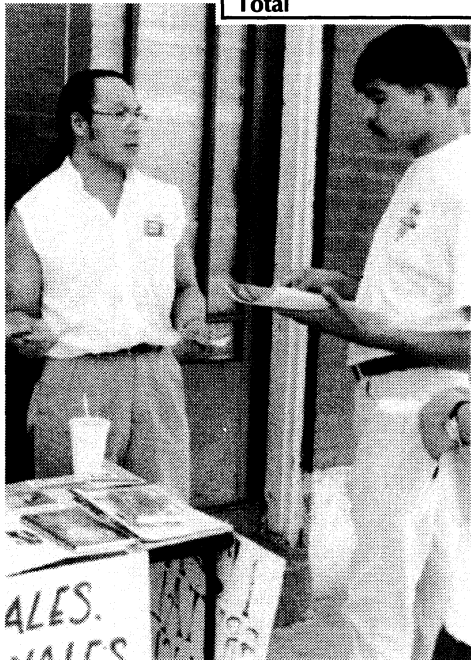
week. They sold ten subscriptions to the *Militant* to coworkers. Two of the new subscribers bought copies of the books *How Far We Slaves Have Come* and *Malcolm X: The Evolution of a Revolutionary*. Since the beginning of May, socialists at the GM plant have sold 34 Pathfinder titles to coworkers.

With similar efforts, *Militant* readers around the world can help boost sales of socialist literature that lag behind so far this month, as the charts show.

Book sales at street tables are picking up in Christchurch, New Zealand, Mike Peters notes, citing as an example a conversation at a regular site near a shopping mall. "I've seen you here heaps of times before," the young person said. "But with what's happening in the world, I wanted to find out more." He ended up buying a copy of the *Communist Manifesto* and *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*.

Supporters in Christchurch, are also off to a good start in the subscription drive. Three subscriptions were sold in the first week, two to students and one to a worker at a local meatpacking plant who, after reading a copy, said he wanted to visit Cuba.

Pathfinder supporters in Massa-



Militant/Kristin Meriam

Selling *Perspectiva Mundial* sub in Chicago

achusetts drew a steady stream of browsers and buyers to a socialist literature table at the Harvard Square Book Festival May 19. Mary Nell Bockmann reports, "We sold 17 books and pamphlets, including two copies of *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War*, and a range of other titles from the *Communist Manifesto* to Leon Trotsky's *My Life and On the Jewish Question*." Total sales hit nearly \$200 for the day.

At a table in South Boston the day before an Irish rights fighter, pointing to signs demanding "Britain out of Ireland," said he had come over because he had "heard you were having a bit of a picket." He asked about books by Che Guevara, bought a copy of *Episodes*, and donated some posters on the Irish struggle for display at the local Pathfinder Bookstore.

Pathfinder editor Sara Lobman, currently on a sales visit in Penn-

May 19: 38%  
Should be: 61%

Monthly Sales of Pathfinder Books

	Through Pathfinder Bookstores			To Commercial Distributors			Total			Readers Club
UNITED STATES	Goal	Sold	% sold	Goal	Sold	% sold	Goal	Sold	% sold	Members
Boston	65	88	135%	50	38	76%	115	126	110%	41
Greensboro	41	30	73%	36	20	56%	77	50	65%	33
Cleveland	50	28	56%	40	28	70%	90	56	62%	18
Los Angeles*	120	61	51%	95	60	63%	215	121	56%	70
San Francisco	95	49	52%	74	42	57%	169	91	54%	68
Pittsburgh	63	20	32%	49	39	80%	112	59	53%	33
Seattle	80	27	34%	60	41	68%	140	68	49%	61
Washington, D.C.	54	27	50%	42	14	33%	96	41	43%	35
Brooklyn	165	81	49%	130	32	25%	295	113	38%	73
New York*	175	47	27%	175	80	46%	350	127	36%	77
Peoria*	27	16	59%	21	1	5%	48	17	35%	17
Miami	55	33	60%	42	1	2%	97	34	35%	32
Atlanta	48	22	46%	32	5	16%	80	27	34%	38
Newark	171	45	26%	133	44	33%	304	89	29%	97
Houston	45	22	49%	32	0	0%	77	22	29%	35
Twin Cities	86	39	45%	67	1	1%	153	40	26%	54
Philadelphia*	63	18	29%	49	10	20%	112	28	25%	40
Detroit*	77	31	40%	60	2	3%	137	33	24%	46
Chicago	77	32	42%	60	0	0%	137	32	23%	38
Salt Lake City*	50	15	30%	40	5	13%	90	20	22%	38
Birmingham	65	9	14%	50	0	0%	115	9	8%	54
Morgantown*	32	2	6%	25	0	0%	57	2	4%	19
Des Moines*	45	0	0%	35	0	0%	80	0	0%	29
Total	1749	742	41%	1397	463	33%	3146	1205	38%	1046
Goal/Should be	1800	1098	61%	1400	854	61%	3200	1952	61%	
* no new report										
AUSTRALIA	36	16	44%		35		36	51	142%	3
CANADA										
Vancouver	36	28	78%	28	14	50%	64	42	66%	50
Toronto	90	61	68%	70	0	0%	160	61	38%	52
Montreal	72	21	29%	64	0	0%	136	21	15%	36
Total	198	110	50%	162	14	9%	360	124	34%	138
Goal/Should be	220	134	61%	92	56	61%	312	190	61%	
NEW ZEALAND										
Christchurch	28	20	71%				28	20	71%	14
Auckland	65	44	68%				65	44	68%	38
Total	93	64	69%				93	64	69%	52

Pathfinder books sold to Co-workers

Unions	Goal	Sold	% sold	Readers Club
UFCW	6	3	50%	0
UAW	100	33	33%	49
UNITE	42	6	14%	7
OCAW	50	7	14%	25
IAM	71	0	0%	19
UMWA	5	0	0%	7
UTU	85	0	0%	40
USWA	58	0	0%	13
Total	411	49	12%	160
Goal/Should be	400	244	61%	

IAM—International Association of Machinists; OCAW—Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; UAW—United Auto Workers; UFCW—United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA—United Mine Workers of America; UNITE—Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees; USWA—United Steelworkers of America; UTU—United Transportation Union.

sylvania, followed up on a tip from a college bookstore and met with a political science professor. The teacher was particularly interested in the *Communist Manifesto*, Pathfinder's top-selling class-adoption title, because of its combination of annotation and good price.

Lobman and local supporters are also visiting libraries in the state, making sure to check the computerized catalogs first to spot the gaps in the institutions' collections.

A panel of activists and fighters participated along with two dozen others in the grand opening of the new Pathfinder bookstore

in Peoria May 11, Angel Lariscy reports. A highlight was the remarks by Dan Lane, a former member of the United Paperworkers union who was locked out by A.E. Staley in Decatur, Illinois.

Lane, who had just returned from an ac-

tion in solidarity with bus drivers who had been locked out in Mexico, noted that Pathfinder books like *Teamster Rebellion* explain where workers' roots are. "They're about our struggles and the fight against the bosses," Lane said.

\$12,000 contributed so far to repair Pathfinder wall

Following Pathfinder's launching of a financial appeal to raise the more than \$100,000 needed to repair the building where publisher's offices and printing plant are located, four supporters of Pathfinder kicked off the effort with contributions totaling \$12,207. The south wall of the building, on which the Pathfinder Mural is painted, has serious water and structural damage that threatens the long-term usability of the building.

One contributor gave \$10,000 from an inheritance. And three members of the United Steelworkers of America pooled their recent contract bonuses for a collective contribution of \$2,207 toward the long-term capital requirements for producing revolutionary and Marxist books and pam-

phlets. The fund appeal is to those in a position to contribute \$1,000 and more from trusts, signing bonuses, inheritances, buyouts, and other windfalls. Any one interested in making a contribution, or more information, can contact Pathfinder, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014.

Pathfinder Mural Reproduction

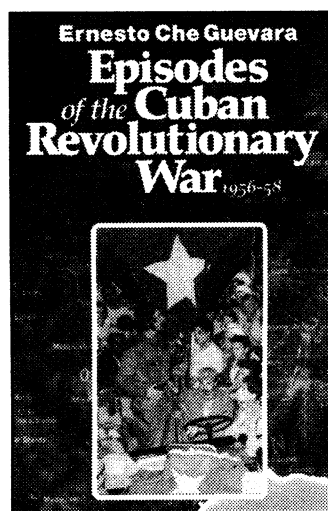
To carry out the repairs the well known Pathfinder Mural will have to be removed. Supporters of the mural are asking for contributions toward a large photographic mural reproduction and a display of a history of the Mural for the Pathfinder Mural bookstore. To help, you can send a donation to the Pathfinder Mural Bookstore, 167 Charles St., New York, NY 10014.

Militant Subscription Drive  
MAY 11 — JUNE 16, 1996

City	Militant			PM			NI		
United States	goal	sold	%	goal	sold	%	goal	sold	%
Twin Cities, MN	55	15	27%	20	10	50%	15	4	27%
Des Moines	30	7	23%	20	1	5%	15	0	0%
Detroit	50	9	18%	8	3	38%	15	1	7%
Brooklyn	75	10	13%	35	4	11%	35	0	0%
Birmingham, AL	35	4	11%	7	1	14%	20	0	0%
Washington, DC	30	3	10%	10	2	20%	10	0	0%
Miami	35	3	9%	15	3	20%	15	2	13%
Pittsburgh	40	3	8%	5	0	0%	10	0	0%
Atlanta	27	2	7%	10	3	30%	8	0	0%
Salt Lake City	42	2	5%	12	1	8%	21	0	0%
Houston	30	1	3%	20	0	0%	8	0	0%
New York	70	2	3%	40	1	3%	35	0	0%
Boston	40	1	3%	10	0	0%	20	0	0%
Chicago	40	1	3%	20	3	15%	12	0	0%
Los Angeles	60	1	2%	30	7	23%	30	0	0%
Newark, NJ	80	1	1%	30	3	10%	30	0	0%
Cleveland	20	0	0%	6	0	0%	5	0	0%
Greensboro, NC	30	0	0%	5	0	0%	5	0	0%
Morgantown, WV	21	0	0%	1	0	0%	6	0	0%
Peoria, IL	15	0	0%	2	0	0%	5	0	0%
Philadelphia	40	0	0%	10	0	0%	12	0	0%
San Francisco	65	0	0%	20	0	0%	40	0	0%
Seattle	50	0	0%	10	0	0%	15	0	0%
Total U.S.	980	65	7%	346	42	12%	387	7	2%
Canada									
Montreal	25	6	24%	8	0	0%	35	10	29%
Toronto	45	5	11%	10	2	20%	20	3	15%
Vancouver	20	6	30%	3	0	0%	10	0	0%
Total	90	13	14%	21	2	10%	65	13	20%
Britain									
London	20	0	0%	20	0	0%	3	0	0%
Total	20	0	0%	20	0	0%	3	0	0%
New Zealand									
Auckland	30	4	13%	2	0	0%	5	1	20%
Christchurch	12	3	25%	1	0	0%	2	1	50%
Total	42	7	17%	3	0	0%	7	2	29%
Australia	10	3	30%	3	1	33%	5	0	0%
Iceland	10	0	0%	0	0	0%	10	0	0%
Sweden	10	0	0%	8	1	13%	6	0	0%
International Total	1162	88	8%	401	45	11%	483	22	5%
Goal/Should be at	1100	220	20%	350	70	20%	400	80	20%
IN THE UNIONS									
United States									
UMWA	5	0	0%	0	0	0%	5	0	0%
OCAW	35	1	3%	0	0	0%	0	1	3%
UAW	75	8	11%	15	0	0%	35	1	3%
IAM	56	2	4%	16	1	6%	26	0	0%
UFCW	5	0	0%	7	0	0%	7	0	0%
UNITE	25	0	0%	8	0	0%	10	0	0%
USWA	45	2	4%	5	1	20%	35	0	0%
UTU	60	1	2%	5	0	0%	30	0	0%
U.S. Total	306	14	5%	56	2	4%	148	2	1%

# AVAILABLE FROM PATHFINDER

## REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLES IN SOUTH AFRICA AND CUBA

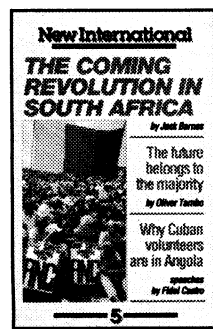


### Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War, 1956-58

ERNESTO CHE GUEVARA

This book is a firsthand account of the military campaigns and political events that culminated in the January 1959 popular insurrection that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship in Cuba. Guevara describes how the struggle transformed the men and women of the Rebel Army and July 26 Movement led by Fidel Castro. And how these combatants forged a political leadership capable of guiding millions of workers and peasants to open the socialist revolution in the Americas. \$23.95

### The Coming Revolution in South Africa



JACK BARNES

The one-person, one-vote elections in 1994, and the sweeping victory of the African National Congress, were historic steps in the democratic revolution in South Africa. This article explores the social character and roots

of apartheid in South African capitalism and the tasks of the toilers in city and countryside in dismantling the legacy of social and economic inequality. Only among the most committed cadres of this ANC-led struggle, Barnes writes, can the working class begin forging a communist leadership. In *New International* no. 5. Also includes "Why Cuban Volunteers Are in Angola": 2 speeches by Fidel Castro. \$9.00

### The Struggle Is My Life

NELSON MANDELA

Nelson Mandela's speeches and political writings from his days as a leader of the African National Congress Youth League in 1944 until his release from prison in 1990. \$15.95

South Africans celebrate inauguration of first nonracial, democratic National Assembly, May 1994

### Apartheid's Great Land Theft

The Struggle for the Right to Farm in South Africa

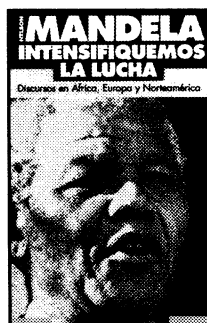
ERNEST HARSCH  
\$3.50

In Spanish

### Nelson Mandela: Intensifiquemos la lucha

Nelson Mandela: Intensify the Struggle.

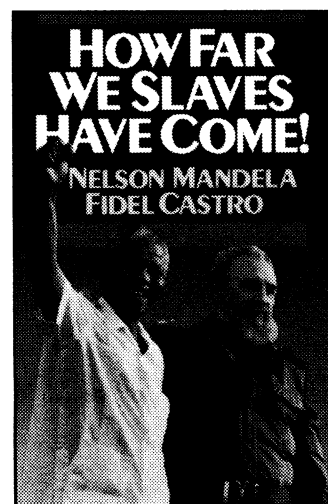
Ten speeches in which the South African leader, following his release from prison, recounts the course of struggle that put an end to apartheid and opened the fight for a deep-going political, economic, and social transformation. \$13.95



### Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism

CARLOS TABLADA

Also available in Spanish and French. \$17.95



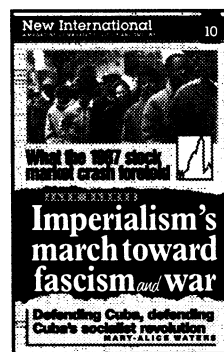
### How Far We Slaves Have Come!

South Africa and Cuba in Today's World

NELSON MANDELA, FIDEL CASTRO

Speaking together in Cuba in 1991, Mandela and Castro discuss the unique relationship and example of the struggles of the South African and Cuban peoples. Also available in Spanish. \$8.95

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690. Fax: (212) 727-0150. When ordering by mail, please include \$3 for the first book and \$0.50 for each additional title to cover shipping and handling.



### Defending Cuba, Defending Cuba's Socialist Revolution

MARY-ALICE WATERS

In face of the greatest economic difficulties in the history of the revolution, Cuba's workers and farmers are defending their political power, their independence and sovereignty, and the historic course they set out on more than 35 years ago. In *New International* no. 10. \$14.00

### Dynamics of the Cuban Revolution

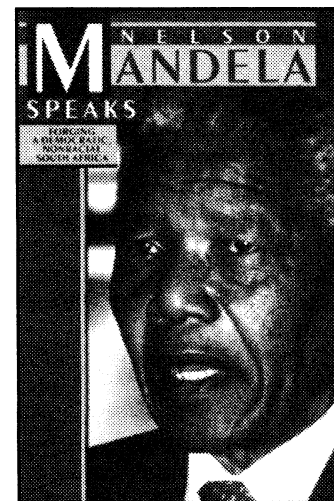
A Marxist Appreciation

JOSEPH HANSEN

How did the Cuban revolution come about? Why does it represent, as Joseph Hansen put it, an "unbearable challenge" to U.S. imperialism? What political challenges has it confronted? Written with polemical clarity as the revolution advanced. \$20.95

### The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara

Guevara's account of the 1966-67 guerrilla struggle in Bolivia. A day-by-day chronicle of the campaign to forge a continent-wide revolutionary movement of workers and peasants capable of seizing state power. Includes excerpts from the diaries and accounts of other combatants, including—for the first time in English—*My Campaign with Che* by Bolivian leader Inti Peredo. Introduction by Mary-Alice Waters. \$21.95



### Nelson Mandela Speaks Forging a Democratic, Nonracial South Africa

Mandela's speeches from 1990 through 1993 recount the course of struggle that put an end to apartheid and opened the fight for a deep-going political, economic, and social transformation in South Africa. \$18.95

### The Second Declaration of Havana

In 1962, as the example of Cuba's socialist revolution spread throughout the Americas, the workers and farmers of Cuba issued their uncompromising call for a continent-wide revolutionary struggle. Also available in Spanish and French. \$4.50



Cubans rally in support of revolution, early 1960s

## Join the Pathfinder Readers Club and get 15% off

FOR A \$10 ANNUAL FEE, YOU CAN GET A 15% DISCOUNT ON PATHFINDER TITLES FROM ALL PATHFINDER BOOKSTORES AND DIRECT FROM THE PUBLISHER, AS WELL AS OTHER SPECIAL OFFERS. DOES NOT APPLY TO NEW INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE.





# Workers had 'nothing to gain' in WWI

## Speech by socialist leader Eugene V. Debs from newly reprinted collection

Pathfinder has recently reprinted *Eugene V. Debs Speaks*, a collection of 30 speeches and articles by the pioneer socialist agitator and tireless fighter for the rights of working men and women. The new printing incorporates, for the first time, an index to the major individuals and themes Debs discusses.

The speech excerpted below was delivered in Canton, Ohio, June 6, 1918, during the final months of World War I. In it, Debs salutes the Russian revolution and calls on class-conscious workers in the United States to follow the example of the Bolshevik-led workers and farmers in Russia and oppose the imperialist war aims of their own government.

Born in 1855 and a railroad worker from the age of 14, Debs played a central role in the labor and socialist movement in the United States in the period prior to the Russian Revolution. He was a founding leader of the American Railway Union, formed in 1893 to unite all railroad workers in a single industrial union. Jailed the following year when the federal government sent troops to crush the union and the strike it was leading against the Pullman company in Illinois, Debs used his prison time to study the ideas of socialism.

He and other cadres of the ARU helped found the organization that became the Socialist Party, a broad formation open to all who considered themselves socialists. Debs, who identified with the proletarian left wing of the party but held back from political battle with its middle-class misleaders, served as the party's presidential candidate five times from 1900 to 1920. He remained a member of the Socialist Party until his death in 1926.

The text of his Canton speech, taken down in shorthand by police spies, became the central evidence at Debs's "treason" trial three months later. Convicted under provisions of the wartime Espionage Act, Debs was sentenced to 10 years in prison, of which he served nearly three years.

James P. Cannon, a founding leader of the communist movement in the United States, hailed Debs's Canton address as "the greatest speech in his life . . . a courageous and revolutionary defiance of the warmongers and of the Judases in the ranks of labor." Cannon's article "E.V. Debs: The Socialist Movement of His Time — Its Meaning for Today" is included as the introduction to *Eugene V. Debs Speaks*.

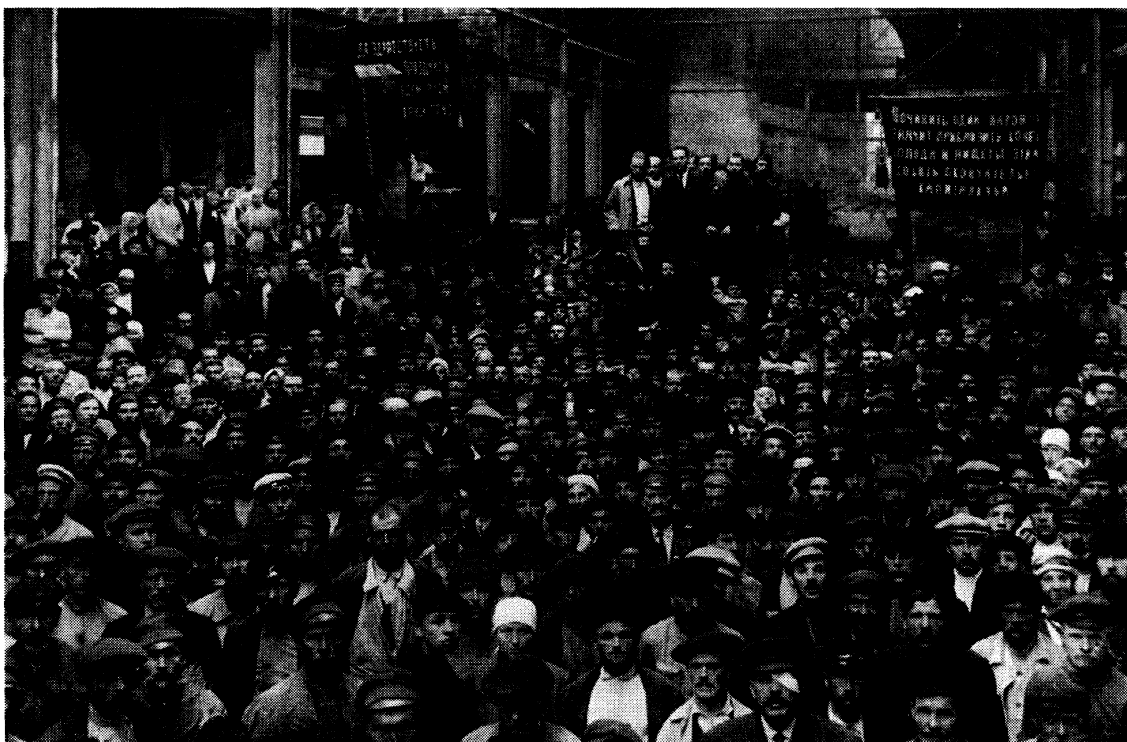
The excerpts below are copyright © 1970 by Pathfinder Press, and are reprinted with permission.



### BY EUGENE V. DEBS

Comrades, friends and fellow workers . . . I have just returned from a visit over yonder [pointing to the workhouse] [laughter], where three of our most loyal comrades [applause] are paying the penalty for their devotion to the cause of the working class. [Applause.] They have come to realize, as many of us have, that it is extremely dangerous to exercise the constitutional right of free speech in a country fighting to make democracy safe in the world. [Applause.]

I realize that, in speaking to you this after-



Workers of the Putilov tractor factory meet in June 1920 to reelect Soviet, or workers council. Banners read, "To repair an engine is to get to the root of poverty and thus defeat capitalism once and for all. Long live the feast of the universal army of workers." Debs pointed to the Russian revolution as showing the only road to peace for working people around the world.

noon, there are certain limitations placed upon the right of free speech. I must be exceedingly careful, prudent, as to what I say, and even more careful and prudent as to how I say it. [Laughter.] I may not be able to say all I think [Laughter and applause]; but I am not going to say anything that I do not think. [Applause.] I would rather a thousand times be a free soul in jail than to be a sycophant and coward in the streets. [Applause and shouts.] They may put those boys in jail — and some of the rest of us in jail — but they cannot put the Socialist movement in jail. . . .

Here, in this alert and inspiring assemblage [applause] our hearts are with the Bolsheviks in Russia. [Deafening and prolonged applause.] . . . Those Russian comrades of ours have made greater sacrifices, have suffered more, and have shed more heroic blood than any like number of men and women anywhere on earth; they have laid the foundation of the first real democracy that ever drew the breath of life in this world. [Applause.]

And the very first act of the triumphant Russian revolution was to proclaim a state of peace with all mankind, coupled with a fervent moral appeal, not to kings, not to emperors, rulers or diplomats but to the people of all nations. [Applause.] . . .

In a humane and fraternal spirit new Russia, emancipated at last from the curse of the centuries, called upon all nations engaged in the frightful war, the Central Powers as well as the Allies, to send representatives to a conference to lay down terms of peace that should be just and lasting. Here was the supreme opportunity to strike the blow to make the world safe for democracy. [Applause.]

Was there any response to that noble appeal that in some day to come will be written in letters of gold in the history of the world? [Applause.] Was there any response whatever to that appeal for universal peace? [From the crowd, "No!"] No, not the slightest attention was paid to it by the Christian nations engaged in the terrible slaughter. . . .

When the Bolsheviks came into power and went through the archives they found and exposed the secret treaties — the treaties that were made between the Czar and the French government, the British government and the Italian government, proposing, after the victory was achieved, to dismember the German Empire and destroy the Central Powers.

These treaties have never been denied nor repudiated. Very little has been said about them in the American press. I have a copy of

these treaties, showing that the purpose of the Allies is exactly the purpose of the Central Powers, and that is the conquest and spoliation of the weaker nations that has always been the purpose of war.

Wars throughout history have been waged for conquest and plunder. In the Middle Ages when the feudal lords who inhabited the castles whose towers may still be seen along the Rhine concluded to enlarge their domains, to increase their power, their prestige and their wealth they declared war upon one another. But they themselves did not go to war any more than the modern feudal lords, the barons of Wall Street go to war. [Applause.]

The feudal barons of the Middle Ages, the economic predecessors of the capitalists of our day, declared all wars. And their miserable serfs fought all the battles. The poor, ignorant serfs had been taught to revere their masters; to believe that when their masters declared war upon one another, it was their patriotic duty to fall upon one another and to cut one another's throats for the profit and glory of the lords and barons who held them in contempt. And that is war in a nutshell.

The master class has always declared the wars; the subject class has always fought the battles. The master class has had all to gain and nothing to lose, while the subject class

has had nothing to gain and all to lose—especially their lives. [Applause.]

They have always taught and trained you to believe it to be your patriotic duty to go to war and to have yourselves slaughtered at their command. But in all the history of the world you, the people, have never had a voice in declaring war, and strange as it certainly appears, no war by any nation in any age has ever been declared by the people.

And here let me emphasize the fact — and it cannot be repeated too often — that the working class who fight all the battles, the working class who make the supreme sacrifices, the working class who freely shed their blood and furnish the corpses, have never yet had a voice in either declaring war or making peace. It is the ruling class that invariably does both. They alone declare war and they alone make peace.

Yours not to reason why; yours but to do and die.

That is their motto and we object on the part of the awakening workers of this nation.

If war is right let it be declared by the people. You who have your lives to lose, you certainly above all others have the right to decide the momentous issue of war or peace. [Applause.]

Yes, in good time we are going to sweep into power in this nation and throughout the world. We are going to destroy all enslaving and degrading capitalist institutions and recreate them as free and humanizing institutions. The world is daily changing before our eyes. The sun of capitalism is setting; the sun of socialism is rising. It is our duty to build the new nation and the free republic. We need industrial and social builders. We Socialists are the builders of the beautiful world that is to be. We are all pledged to do our part. We are inviting — aye challenging you this afternoon in the name of your own manhood and womanhood to join us and do your part.

In due time the hour will strike and this great cause triumphant — the greatest in history — will proclaim the emancipation of the working class and the brotherhood of all mankind. [Thunderous and prolonged applause.]

1. Debs had visited Charles Ruthenberg, Alfred Wagenknecht, and Charles Baker, three leaders of the Socialist Party in Ohio who had been jailed on charges of obstructing registration for the draft.



Debs giving anti-war speech in Canton, Ohio June 16, 1918.

Available from Pathfinder

### Eugene V. Debs Speaks

Speeches by the pioneer U.S. socialist agitator and labor leader, jailed for opposing Washington's imperialist aims in World War I. Debs speaks out on capitalism and socialism, anti-immigrant chauvinism, how anti-Black racism weakens the labor movement, Rockefeller's massacre of striking miners at Ludlow, Colorado, and more. \$19.95

### Revolutionary Continuity

Marxist Leadership in the United States

Farrell Dobbs

How successive generations of fighters took part in the struggles of the U.S. labor movement, seeking to build a leadership that could advance the class interests of workers and small farmers and link up with fellow toilers around the world. 2 vols.

The Early Years, 1848–1917 \$16.95

Birth of the Communist Movement, 1918–1922 \$16.95

James P. Cannon

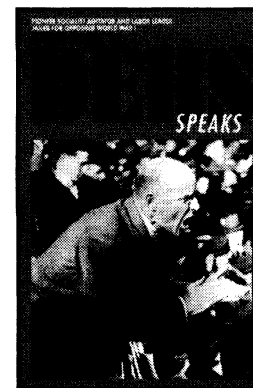
WRITINGS AND SPEECHES, 1940–43

The Socialist Workers Party

in World War II

Preparing the communist workers movement in the United States to campaign against wartime censorship, repression, and antiunion assaults. \$22.95

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690. Fax: (212) 727-0150. When ordering by mail, please include \$3 for the first book and \$0.50 for each additional title to cover shipping and handling.



### The Socialist Workers Party in World War II

Writings and Speeches, 1940–43

James P. Cannon

Preparing the communist workers movement in the United States to campaign against wartime censorship, repression, and antiunion assaults. \$22.95

# When Cuba proclaimed socialist revolution

## Fidel Castro speaks on 35th anniversary of U.S.-backed invasion at Bay of Pigs

The following are major excerpts from a speech by Cuban president Fidel Castro at the main ceremony marking the 35th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolutionary armed forces over a U.S.-backed mercenary invasion at Playa Girón, known in the United States as the Bay of Pigs. The 1,500 Cuban-born counterrevolutionaries launched their invasion April 17, 1961, and were crushed two days later. The ceremony where Castro gave the address below was held in Matanzas, Cuba, April 16, 1996. The excerpts are taken from the English-language translation that was published in the May 1 Cuban weekly *Granma Internacional*, where the speech appears in its entirety. Subheadings are by the *Militant*.

### BY FIDEL CASTRO

We commemorate many things this afternoon, many important things. But in the first place, we should remember that on this date, in the afternoon, we proclaimed the socialist character of the revolution. [Applause] We could say that it was the first great artillery salvo in response to the aggression.

This afternoon we recall with infinite pain how we buried the comrades who died in the repugnant and cowardly bombing on April 15, a bombing carried out by planes painted with the insignia of our Air Force, to confuse us, to deceive us, to surprise us.

I recall the early morning of that day, because I had spent the whole night awake. A boat was approaching the eastern zone and the comrades from that region were on a state of alert, especially in the area between Maisí and Baracoa, and from the command post in a house in Nuevo Vedado [a neighborhood in Havana], we saw the planes that were going to bomb Ciudad Libertad flying low overhead.

They fired almost immediately, but I remember that no more than 20 seconds passed before our anti-aircraft artillery responded energetically to their fire, despite the fact that it was made up of young, inexperienced militiamen with no practice in the use of those arms. And one of those planes — as part of a deliberate enemy plan — flew off to Miami, landed there and said that it was deserting from the Cuban Air Force and that the revolution's aviation was up in arms.

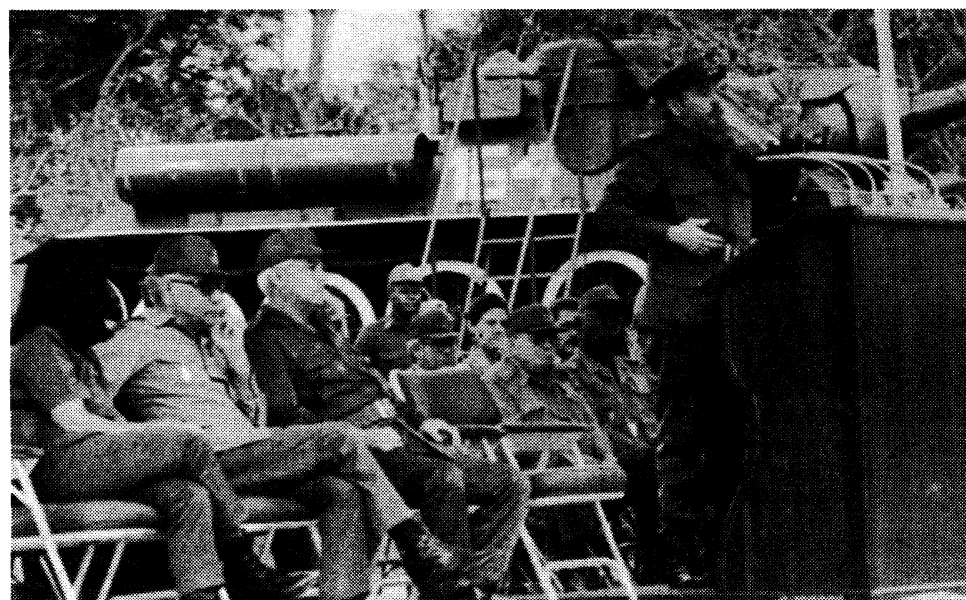
They said that these were not U.S. planes with Cuban insignia, but rather planes piloted by insurgents. That same lie was proclaimed at the United Nations, and not even that country's representative in the United Nations was told the truth about what had happened....

### Difficult days of the Bay of Pigs

Those days of the Bay of Pigs were difficult. We know that the United States would not pardon us for making a revolution.

What kind of a revolution was it? It was a revolution of justice. All those laws that were mentioned here and that [José Ramón] Fernández<sup>1</sup> mentioned were simply laws of justice, in a country that was enslaved, exploited, humiliated, where the peasants had no land, where the U.S. companies were the powerful owners of the country's best land, where theft was constant, where people were killed, tortured, assassinated, where the

number of illiterate was enormous, where almost 60 children per 1,000 live births died every year, where there were no schools, where there lived a valiant, heroic people who had struggled a long time so that their powerful neighbor would not take them over, and because agrarian reform laws and urban reform laws had been passed, and because, in short, social justice was being done, that neighbor decided to immediately liquidate the revolution.



Fidel Castro gives Bay of Pigs commemoration address in Matanzas, Cuba, April 16.

But first they thought they could liquidate it by taking away the sugar quota, or that they could liquidate it by eliminating the oil supplies — that is, not selling Cuba petroleum or permitting that any other country sell Cuba petroleum — and other similar measures, and the revolution found formulas to fight each one of these and to survive.

They were not going to allow our revolution to be an example for the peoples of Latin America living under similar conditions, and they believed, with disdain, that they could crush us. They did not realize that this was a different kind of revolution, that this was a popular revolution, a revolution of the people, by the people and for the people which defeated one of the best organized and best trained armies in the hemisphere.

They did not understand that, and immediately they took on the task of organizing subversive groups. Relying on the large landowners, the henchmen and others affected by the revolution, they managed to organize 300 groups, and supply them with arms, resources, money, political support, aid of all kinds. They began to carry out sabotage throughout the length and breadth of our national territory, in addition to the economic blockade aimed at starving us to death.

At that time, the socialist bloc existed — the USSR existed. We all know what happened, but despite that, as proof of what feelings of solidarity and internationalism meant, they helped us, they supported us, and although we disagree with most, if not all, of what they did later on, we are thankful for what they did for us at that moment. [Applause] It was extremely important.

### Not willing to renounce the revolution

We did not want to mix up the international situation and the cold war with our revolution, but we were not willing to renounce our revolution.

We did not buy our first weapons from the socialist bloc; we went to Western countries to buy weapons. In some places we bought rifles, grenade launchers, ammunition, modern and automatic rifles, tens of thousands; in a European country we also bought cannons, munitions.

And what happened? When the second ship was landing, having been sabotaged while abroad, it exploded — and exploded twice, because the sabotage had been prepared for it to explode at least twice<sup>2</sup>.... While they were planning their aggression against Cuba, they wanted to prohibit or impede our acquisition of arms.

At that time we didn't even have relations with the Soviets, there were no diplomatic relations, but we were determined to defend ourselves, we were determined to fight, and that was how we acquired the first weapons

from the socialist bloc. Of course, they came from different places: some were Czech, others were weapons taken from the Germans during World War II and others were Soviet arms that arrived through Czechoslovakia....

Weapons arrived, but the people were not trained in the use of those weapons. We had learned how to handle a few cannons and tanks which had remained in Cuba when the revolution triumphed, and that's how we

started to arm ourselves, but we had to organize the cadres....

When the United States saw that the revolution was resisting, it speeded up its plans for the mercenary invasion, and we knew — after all the measures that they had taken against Cuba of every kind, including subversion, sabotage, armed actions — that as soon as they had the first opportunity or the first organized force, they would lash out, trying to do in Cuba something similar to what they had done in Guatemala. But no one could know when or how. We did know that they were going to use that variant, and in the meantime, we organized ourselves feverishly throughout the country.

We sent the first FAL rifles that arrived to the mountains. We were already preparing to fight in the mountains if aggression came; the concepts that we later developed on a large scale were already present. We already knew that if the U.S. army arrived here, the Cuban people, with tens of thousands of rifles, could fight them off. No one doubted that.

But later a torrent, as we could call it, of arms of all kinds arrived — arms of a different type, hundreds of anti-aircraft weapons, hundreds of artillery weapons of all calibers, hundreds of tanks, or at least it seemed like hundreds to us. I couldn't say how many we had on April 17, 1961, but I can assure you enough to crush ten Bay of Pigs invasions simultaneously, in a slightly longer time, of course. When those arms arrived, the population was mobilized throughout the country and especially in Havana. Most of the arms were concentrated there because it was logical that any enemy aggression would try to take the capital of the country. Tens of thousands of militiamen were mobilized.

There were a few Czech and Soviet instructors and when they saw how things were, they said, "This is impossible. They need at least two years to train all these people." And we told them, "No, we have to train them all, and as fast as possible." That's when we invented something, which was to ask the trainees to teach in the afternoon what they had learned in the morning in regard to tanks, artillery, anti-aircraft weapons, whatever. And that's what they did. In the end, those small groups of instructors were convinced that in that way, it was possible to train hundreds of thousands.

We recruited many young people in the universities, in work places, everywhere, for the artillery, anti-aircraft units and infantry battalions, while we speeded up the instruction of the Rebel Army troops that had come down from the Sierra Maestra<sup>3</sup> or had been incorporated throughout the country. We really prepared the personnel very quickly, because we could say that most of those armaments arrived just a few weeks, or at most

a few months before the Bay of Pigs invasion. As you know, Cubans learn quickly, and they learned how to handle those weapons.

As for aviation, they had left us some Sea Furies, other fighter jets whose name I don't recall at this moment, some B-26s and three training jets. But really, the aviation personnel — except for a small patriotically spirited group which had been imprisoned because almost all of them refused to bomb the peasants in the Sierra Maestra — had fought on Batista's side, and therefore we had more planes than pilots, and training a pilot takes time....

### Forces trained in all provinces

But when would they come? We didn't have such an extensive intelligence service as we do now; we picked up news, we read. But here's a glimpse of how they controlled the press when they wanted to: in the United States they gave the press instructions not to talk about the organization of the expedition, but something always leaked out. Which plan would it be? Would they attempt to form guerrilla groups in the different regions of the country? They had already formed them in the Escambray mountains, and we had cleaned out the Escambray more than once; actually, they brought in arms all over the island.

We wondered which plan it would be. A generalized guerrilla war? It's always harder to capture a small group than a troop; we wanted them to send them all together, of course. But what would they do? And we took steps, in each cove, on each small beach in the country we put a militia platoon; we left no place unguarded. And of course, forces were being trained in all of the provinces.

If they decided to go in one direction, which one would they choose? We thought, for example, that they might try to establish a sort of Taiwan on the Isle of Pines, now called the Isle of Youth. The prisons were there, filled with thousands of counterrevolutionary prisoners and war criminals, so what we did was send tanks, infantry, cannons there, and turn the Isle of Pines into a fortress.

Could it be in the Escambray mountains? There was a certain logic to that; there they had organized many groups and at one point had 1,000 armed men in the Escambray who were experts in evading our forces....

There was a moment in which the revolution concentrated 50,000 men in the Escambray — which gives you an idea of their strength — from all the provinces, most of them from Havana. The Escambray was completely surrounded, divided into four parts and we started to clean up, with squadrons going house to house.

At some point, the Escambray could have been their preferred spot for launching an invasion, a mountainous area, where motorized forces would have to go up the coast, an airport, and a certain base of internal support. But the Escambray became another indomitable fortress.

We kept thinking and we were left with the Bay of Pigs. There had been nothing there, and in the first year of the revolution we started building roads, in order to improve the lives of the charcoal makers and their families. Three fundamental roads were being built... we were also building schools and an airfield. The airfield was necessary for the enemy, for supplying arms and for bringing in the provisional government, which was the real plan to legitimize their crime....

If small groups arrived, we had to fight against all the groups that landed; if they concentrated them, we had to have sufficient forces to destroy them. That's what we were working on, and we were waiting for an invasion at any moment when the early morning bombing occurred on April 15. That was a whopping blunder on the part of the enemy, because by attacking us on the morning of April 15, by inventing that whole thing about the insurgent airplanes, by employing considerable air power, they immediately gave us the idea that the invasion was a question of 24 or 48 hours, and although we had part of the country mobilized, we immediately mobilized the whole country and all the arms.

On April 16, exactly 35 years ago, and I

### Read the Theses for the 17th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (COC)

Main document that served as basis for discussion and election of delegates in 81,000 factory and other workplace assemblies involving more than 3 million workers. It consists of 11 sections that include, "The world, the workers, and the situation in Cuba," "Unions are by and for the workers," and "Defending the revolution means guaranteeing our power." Congress took place April 27-30.

Available at Pathfinder Bookstores (see page 12) or send \$3 to the Militant, 410 West Street, NY, NY 10014



believe more or less at this same time of day, after we buried our comrades, we organized a large rally with tens of thousands of armed militia members on the corner of 12th and 23rd Streets; they filled up 23rd for many blocks. As you can imagine, there was a state of tremendous indignation; the people were inflamed. The revolution had advanced quite a bit; we knew that this was the price they wanted to make us pay for having our revolution, and although many of our measures were simple acts of social justice, they could also rightly be called socialist measures.

#### Assault speeded revolutionary changes

This whole process of aggressions against Cuba accelerated revolutionary changes. Some day, socialism had to come, but many things needed to be done first, it was not considered to be the moment to talk about socialism. There was an energetic battle against anticommunism, since anticommunism was the United States' principal ideological weapon with the cold war in full swing, but socialism was not discussed.

On that day, given the realities and the acceleration of that process, the enormous quantity of measures of social justice that we'd taken, we considered ourselves within our right to proclaim the socialist nature of the revolution. It was acclaimed throughout the length and breadth of the country by tens of thousands of armed Cubans, and if in the Sierra Maestra we were fighting to destroy the tyranny and we were also fighting for social justice — we were fighting, in short, for our country's liberation — from April 17, our people, with arms in their hand and at the cost of their blood, fought for socialism. [Applause]

Really, it was the moment to give that energetic, bold, defiant response, because the Bay of Pigs occurred when we were surrounded by the U.S. squadron, and as if to tell them: If you want to land, do it, we're not afraid of you, and this is our idea and our intention....

All our forces participated, cadets, militia instructors, militiamen, the police, who fought a very hard battle there, to the west of the Bay of Pigs; the campesino militiamen and campesino women also participated....

Within this whole framework, what were the decisive elements? Firstly, the air attack that took place 48 hours before, that gave us time; it can't be explained why they did this. They wanted to launch a second attack, but they had already failed in the initial attempt, they couldn't destroy any more aircraft because there were anti-aircraft guns protecting the three airports; for that reason they couldn't destroy all the airplanes, the airports were even more reinforced.

As I said, they were discussing and thinking about a second air attack on the morning of the 17th; they weren't able to carry it out, it was useless, because at dawn on the 17th all our planes had taken off for the Bay of Pigs to attack the enemy squadron, the fleet that brought the invaders. That was the decisive factor.

#### Rapid grasp of enemy's strategy

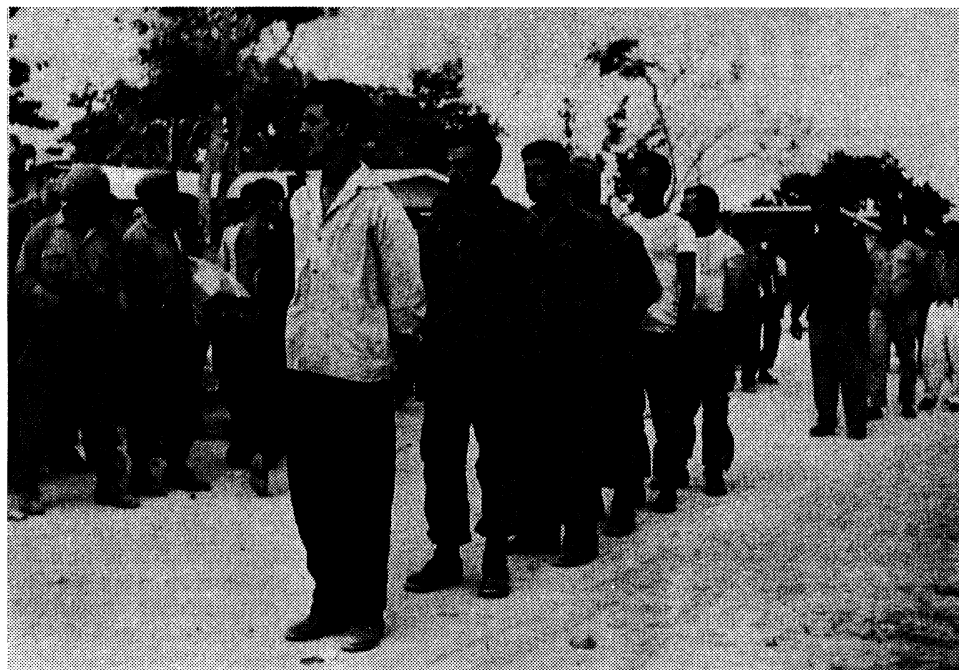
Another important factor was the rapid grasp of the enemy's strategy....

They launched their paratroopers and when they decided to do so, we immediately realized that was the main direction.

It was seen clearly, they dropped them over Covadonga, San Bias, Yaguaramas, Pálpito and some close to this side, they wanted to take and secure the three access routes with paratroopers, launching them to cover both directions of the Ciénaga de Zapata highways....

The most experienced unit we had at that moment was here in Matanzas, and Fernández was asked to lead it immediately to the zone of operations, to Playa Larga, which is the nearest point. But at that same moment, all the tanks in Havana were being mobilized, and all the cannons, all the aircraft weapons, all the battalions, everybody was mobilized. And the ships as well, every unit had to be ready to advance.

There were five transports only for the tanks, the rest to be pulled by their axles, and it was a good distance, the thruway didn't exist then, and so, they left at top speed; however, the problem was that the enemy air force was numerous and had an



Bay of Pigs mercenaries captured by Cuban revolutionary militia, April 1962.

active presence.

We didn't know how many aircraft they had, we had no means of knowing that, if they were 20, 30, 40, or 100, nor who was piloting them, because when they ran out of Cuban pilots they started using U.S. pilots. For that reason, all our armaments, the tanks, artillery, infantry were accompanied by anti-aircraft guns, and there were a lot of them, and, moreover, with instructions to advance to Jovellanos. Not knowing the number of possible planes in the air, we couldn't risk sending that troop by day, beyond Jovellanos, towards the Bay of Pigs; we asked them to camouflage themselves as well as possible and to wait.

Our planes were attacking the squadron, our soldiers had to endure the air attacks, because we didn't have any more planes, and the important thing was to leave the enemy without a squadron. That's why we had casualties, for that reason and on account of the trick of using Cuban insignia.

#### We didn't give them a minute's respite

At dusk, the torrent of tanks, artillery and the rest began to advance in that direction, while the people of Villa Clara were also mobilizing; that's to say, what is now the Central Army — or it already was, founded on April 4 — was mobilizing with all its forces to attack in the direction of Covadonga and Yaguaramas; and, in fact, they fought without respite, because I believe that the third most important element was not to give them a minute's respite.

Since the idea was to bring in the provisional government, call on the OAS [Organization of American States] so that the OAS would intervene immediately — with only a few soldiers from each Latin American country, and the rest U.S. soldiers — we couldn't give them time to establish a beachhead to land their provisional government. That was the reason for not giving them one minute's respite throughout the battle.

They were lucky — and I'm not going to explain why now — because we were without communications, we had to communicate by telephone from one town to another, nothing could be said over the radio. In fact, we didn't even have radios. The tanks, and some of the trucks had them, but with the rapid highway movements that had to be made, in civilian cars, and — apart from internal communications — those cars didn't have communications with the forces....

I sincerely believe that the Bay of Pigs battle was a great example of our people's prowess, and not only in terms of what they did, but because of what they were prepared to do, to ensure that the United States suffered a defeat in Cuba, even if the price for us would have been very high, even if we would have been the first Vietnam. [Applause]...

Our battle today is even more meritorious, if you like, because we are fighting on our own. Previously, there was a time when we were alone, but we believed we were accompanied [Laughter]; some lessons like the Missile Crisis<sup>4</sup> and others taught us otherwise.... Well, that was no secret at the time. For a long time, we knew that it was the Cubans, and only the Cubans who were going to defend the country, and who defend the country, using the correct tactics to defend the country, which is not that little wargame of Clausewitz, but the war of all the people, that's the truth. [Applause]

In that way we made the revolution, in that way we have defended it, and in that way we can continue defending it.

We are happy to celebrate this 35th anniversary; we are happy about all the lives that were saved; we are happy that our children have grown up healthy, educated and cultured; we are happy about our marvelous young people. Yes, may they live a long time! We already know that in order to live with dignity in this world, one has to struggle, and you see every day on television what is happening in the rest of the world.

#### U.S. beatings of Mexican immigrants

The other day we saw how some Mexican immigrants were savagely beaten [in the United States], which is something that makes us indignant, it's repulsive. One of the immigrants was a woman, and they didn't just hit them once or twice, but five, six, ten times. And all that in front of the television cameras. What must they do off camera?

Police cars, police, horses, dogs every where, strikes every day, people being beaten every day all over the place, in both developed and poor countries, but worse in the poor countries. Theft and more theft, drugs and more drugs, loss of sovereignty and more loss of sovereignty. It's a shame what goes on in the world, but it can't go on forever.

More and more people are gaining consciousness, rising up, getting bored, those who are sick and tired of seeing a world in which hegemony has been imposed by a power capable of telling the whole world lies, like it told during the Bay of Pigs invasion. It would be interminable to try to list all of the lies it has told, even though it would be an example of the lack of scruples and morality that exists within the heart of the empire.

But no matter what difficulties Cubans have, they could never be worse than those of others, when we compare our country's indices with the rest of the Latin American and Third World countries, which are so downtrodden and constantly repressed....

Our independence requires struggle, sacrifice; our dignity, our honor, our right to progress, our tomorrow, our future, everything they want to take away from us costs dearly. But all of us, men and women, boys and girls, all of us who have had the privilege of feeling pride, dignity, and honor, of feeling what our country is, of feeling all those beautiful things which are worth fighting for, are determined to pay the price, because we will never resign ourselves to living without them. [Applause]

Now we must face not the mercenaries who invaded at the Bay of Pigs, but another

type at mercenary, mercenaries who want to tighten the blockade, who want to make our people more needy, who want to put up roadblocks on our path to recovering little by little from that great disaster, that tragedy which was the disappearance of the socialist bloc, and turn our people into solitary soldiers, and in this case I'm excluding the hundreds of millions of persons who sympathize with Cuba, who turned us into solitary soldiers of humanity's most just cause, and clean soldiers at that, pure soldiers.

#### We will stand firm

We will struggle and stand firm, despite those adversaries to whom I referred and who have threatened us for so many years.

They even dare to threaten us with arms in the Helms-Burton Act...

We don't want to fight, we don't want war. We don't have to play at being brave; I don't think even they doubt the courage of our people. We want peace, and I'm going to repeat the idea: we will work for peace to the extent that our country's honor and dignity and our sense of responsibility allow it, because we are not looking for a victory like at the Bay of Pigs, or even 100 victories like at the Bay of Pigs.

What we want is peace, our people's health, our people's well-being, our people's lives, which we will only risk unhesitatingly when the price is sovereignty, independence, honor, freedom, and I am completely sure that all of you agree with this principle, with this idea....

Let's state with pride today, the day on which we commemorate the anniversary in which the socialist nature of our revolution was proclaimed for the first time; let's reaffirm as in those days, certain of victory:

Socialism or death!  
Free homeland or death!  
We shall win!

<sup>1</sup> José Ramón Fernández is currently vice president of Cuba's Council of Ministers and brigadier general in the reserves of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR). He played a leading role in the army units that smashed the mercenary invasion at the Bay of Pigs.

<sup>2</sup> On March 4, 1960, the French ship *La Coubre*, bringing Belgian munitions, blew up in the Havana harbor, killing 81 people.

<sup>3</sup> The Rebel Army, founded by Fidel Castro and other combatants of the July 26 Movement in the Sierra Maestra mountains in eastern Cuba, led the revolutionary war that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in January 1959.

<sup>4</sup> Throughout the spring, summer, and fall of 1962, the U.S. military conducted a series of highly visible exercises simulating an invasion of Cuba. Under the circumstances, the governments of Cuba and the Soviet Union entered into a military pact, which included, at the suggestion of Moscow, the deployment of 42 medium-range nuclear missiles. The Cuban leadership urged that the military agreement be made public, but Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev insisted on keeping the matters secret.

On Oct. 22, 1962, Washington charged that there were "offensive missiles" in Cuba. President John F. Kennedy ordered a full naval blockade of the island, placed U.S. armed forces on war alert, and threatened military action against Cuba and the USSR. After an agreement with Kennedy on October 28, Khrushchev ordered the missiles withdrawn, without consulting the Cuban government.

In an October 1992 interview with NBC television interviewer Maria Shriver, Castro said that if Cuban revolutionaries had known in 1962 what they know now about the political orientation of the Soviet leadership, they would not have accepted the deployment of the Soviet missiles on Cuban soil.


## SUBSCRIBE

# Granma

## INTERNATIONAL

Weekly news and commentary from Cuba.  
Price: \$40 per year.  
Available in English, Spanish, and French.

Write to Pathfinder,  
410 West St., New York, NY 10014



# FAA revokes license of Cuban rightist

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

NEW YORK — On May 16 the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) revoked the pilot's license of José Basulto, head of Brothers to the Rescue.

Members of the group, which is led by Cuban-American counterrevolutionaries, piloted three Cessna aircraft that violated Cuba's airspace February 24. Two of the three planes were shot down by the Cuban air force after refusing to heed unambiguous warnings by Cuban air traffic controllers and air force jets.

According to the Cuban government's account, the invasion of Cuban airspace on the afternoon of February 24, was the second hostile incursion that day by the same kind of aircraft, and the 10th such violation of Cuban territory over the past 20 months, involving some 30 planes. Throughout this period, Washington has refused to take any action to stop these escalating provocations organized from U.S. soil.

Basulto, who was piloting the third plane that afternoon, flew away from Cuban airspace and returned to Florida.

The FAA said in a statement the ruling against Basulto was effective immediately. "The order is based upon evidence of unauthorized operation into Cuban airspace by Basulto on July 13, 1995, and Feb. 24, 1996," it said. "The order also indicates that Basulto ignored numerous warnings concerning his actions from the FAA and the State Department."

Basulto said he will pursue legal action to get his license back.

Immediately following the downing of the two Cessnas, Basulto insisted that the claim that even one of the aircraft had entered Cuban airspace "is a lie." Later that day, however, he told CNN, "There's always a possibility, although remote, that some-



Militant/Lisa Ahlberg  
**Above: February protest in Seattle against Washington's attacks on Cuba following the shootdown of counterrevolutionaries over Cuban water. Right: José Basulto, leader of Brothers to the Rescue.**

thing like this might have taken place."

The U.S. government has maintained that the Cuban air force shot down the two Brothers to the Rescue planes outside Cuban airspace, even though it has acknowledged that Basulto briefly violated Cuban territory. Washington has used this claim to justify passage of the so-called Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act escalating the U.S. economic war on Cuba as well as new travel restrictions to the island, including a ban on direct flights from Miami to Havana.



Brothers to the Rescue has publicly acknowledged that on three occasions over the past six months — in July 1995, and twice in January of this year — it has organized flights directly over Havana, scattering leaf-

lets from the air.

"One day they drop leaflets, another day maybe they try to introduce weapons into our country," said Ricardo Alarcón, president of Cuba's National Assembly, during a televised interview February 26. In fact, murderous assaults organized by U.S.-based "civilians," using "civilian" planes, boats, and small weapons, have taken the lives of many Cubans ever since workers and farmers there overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in 1959.

Basulto seeks to portray Brothers to the Rescue as a "humanitarian" organization. But in 1961 he trained with the Central Intelligence Agency and participated in the invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs that was quickly crushed by Cuba's revolutionary armed forces.

Escaping death or capture, he made his way to the Guantánamo naval base — Cuban territory forcibly occupied by the U.S. government. Basulto's own Cessna has a large "2506" painted in gold on its side, vaunting his involvement in the Bay of Pigs Brigade 2506.

In 1962, Basulto commanded a high-speed boat mounted with a small cannon from Miami into the Havana harbor and fired on a Cuban hotel. And in the 1980s, Basulto aided the U.S.-organized contras seeking to overthrow the revolutionary government in Nicaragua.

Referring to the FAA decision to revoke Basulto's license, Cuban president Fidel Castro told Prensa Latina on May 18, "It was correct. It should have been done earlier; this could have avoided the incident."

"We must carefully consider," Castro added, "how much of this is good intentions, how much reflects seriousness, and how much of this is a maneuver."

Speaking to activists who were attending a meeting of the National Network on Cuba here on May 19, Bruno Rodríguez, ambassador of the Cuban mission to the United Nations, made the same point.

He also pointed to the investigation of the February 24 incident by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The Cuban government has offered material evidence that the two planes were shot down over Cuban waters, including personal items from the four pilots and spotters on the planes and debris from the wreckage. But Washington has been working hard to hamper the investigation, Rodríguez said. The ICAO is supposed to issue its findings before the end of June.

"We hope that common sense will prevail in the ICAO and the UN Security Council," he stated. He pointed out, however, that U.S. politicians like Republican presidential front-runner Robert Dole have pushed for criminal charges against Cuban officials who were involved in the decision to down the intruder planes.

Rodríguez noted that the date when the ICAO issues its findings, and July 15, the deadline for president William Clinton to decide whether to postpone implementation of certain provisions of the new embargo-tightening legislation, could become flashpoints in relations between the two countries. "This is one of the worst moments in U.S.-Cuba relations," he said.

## Young activists plan trip to Cuba

Continued from front page  
the Network.

Ty Moore, an activist in the Seattle-Cuba Friendship, said 10 youth from Seattle have expressed interest in going. He brought seven applications to the NNOC meeting. His group has organized a garage sale, a music concert, and a film festival with the movies *Gay Cuba* and *Cuba Va*. The funds raised will help young people who want to go on the trip but can't afford it.

### Multitude of youth activities

The largest number of applicants come from Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. "We have signed up 21 people to go on the trip so far," said Damon Tinnon, a student at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. As a result of the work on the exchange, activists on that campus recently formed All Students for Cuba, a university-based group whose main purpose is to build the youth exchange. The group is now planning a fund-raising concert on campus along with the Africana and La Raza student cultural centers, Tinnon said.

María Alejandra Rincón from the Cuba Friendship Committee at the University of Houston reported that three students are going on the trip from that school so far. Sandra Collado, who just graduated from Florida International University in Miami, said several youth from that city have also applied. "Building the Youth Exchange is one of the main activities of the Miami Coalition to End the Embargo on Cuba this summer," she said. The coalition is affiliated to the NNOC.

Organizers are also making efforts to reach out to national groups such as MEChA, which organizes mostly Chicano students on campuses across the country, youth in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, young farmers in the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, young feminists in the National Organization for Women, and the NAACP.

"We are also seeking to recruit young workers to go," said Brock Satter, an airline worker and member of the International Association of Machinists in New York. Satter is also an activist in the New York U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange Committee, which holds weekly meetings at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC).

Mayra Matos, a student at BMCC who

attended the NNOC meeting, said the group is planning a Poetry Slam and Open Mike featuring Latino poet Jack Agüeros at a gallery, as well as a Hip Hop, R&B, and Reggae Benefit to raise funds for the trip. Reaching out to Latino youth in Washington Heights and other neighborhoods will be a feature of recruitment efforts in New York, said Noah Smith of the Venceremos Brigade, who is also taking part in the outreach efforts of the BMCC group.

Youth activists from around the country have selected regional coordinators to help with building efforts and are producing a national flyer and outreach letter. "With hard work we may be able to get over 200 youth on the trip," Gaibor said.

### Other Cuba solidarity actions

Participants at the NNOC meeting also agreed to back the Fast for Life by Pastors for Peace. The organization has come under attack from Washington because of its effort in January and February to organize a shipment of medical supplies and computers for hospitals in Cuba.

Three leading Pastors for Peace activists, including its director, Lucius Walker, have been on a fast for more than three months demanding the government release the 400 computers it confiscated from the group. Walker reported that a fourth activist from Vancouver, British Columbia, Brian Rohatyn, ended his fast May 17 after the U.S. government released the 70 seized computers that originated in Canada.

The NNOC agreed to donate \$1,000 to the Pastors for Peace and join the group in its efforts to fight a government subpoena demanding the Pastors hand over to a grand jury records of its project, called the U.S.-Cuba Friendship, which has sent several humanitarian aid caravans to Cuba since 1992. The next hearings on the subpoena have been postponed to June.

Ignacio Meneses, of the U.S.-Cuba Labor Exchange and one of the national coordinators of the NNOC, chaired a public forum on the evening of May 18 at Casa de las Américas. His group organized a delegation of 53 U.S. trade unionists who attended the 17th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC) in Havana at the end of April. Some 50 people, including many of the participants at the NNOC gathering, attended the forum, a report from the CTC congress.

In addition to Meneses, Joel Schwartz, president of American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Local 446; Shelley Beth Ettinger, member of the National Writers Union; Cleve Andrew Pulley, a steward for United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149; and Brian Taylor, member of the International Association of Machinists, spoke on the panel.

Meneses said his group is planning another delegation from the United States to Cuba to participate in an international conference of trade unionists there in the summer of 1997. The conference was called by a May 2 gathering of unionists from around the world who attended the CTC convention.

The National Network also decided to urge affiliates to organize teach-ins and other educational activities on U.S. policy toward Cuba and the facts about the Cuban revolution during the fall, focusing on the first week of October, said Andrés Gómez, one of the four national NNOC co-chairs. These events can broaden opposition to U.S. policy at a time when Washington has qualitatively escalated its economic squeeze on Cuba, he said. They can also serve as building activities for the October 12 immigrant rights march in Washington, D.C.

The next meeting of the Network was set for September 28-29 in Pittsburgh.

### Subscribe to

#### La Gaceta de Cuba

Journal in Spanish published six times a year by the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba. A forum for discussion on culture, politics, and the challenges facing the Cuban revolution today

Send a check or money order (payable in U.S. dollars and made out to Pathfinder Press) to Pathfinder, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690. Fax: (212) 727-0150.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



**One year:**  
**\$40**  
**Institutional**  
**rate: \$75**



# Sexual harassment suit at Mitsubishi sparks controversy

BY ABBY TILSNER

One of the largest class-action sexual harassment lawsuits ever is generating controversy nationwide. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) filed the suit, which could cover some 500 past and present employees, against Mitsubishi Motors Manufacturing of America (MMA). The plaintiffs are eligible for up to \$300,000 in compensatory and punitive damages, plus back wages and interest, to total more than \$150 million.

The abuse occurred at Mitsubishi's only assembly plant in the United States, located in Normal, Illinois, 140 miles southwest of Chicago. The plant employs some 4,000 assembly and maintenance workers, about one-fifth of whom are female.

In 1992 female employees began filing complaints to United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 2488 and to management, but got no relief. Several of them hired Patricia Benassi, a prominent Peoria lawyer, who began filing with the EEOC.

In December 1994 Benassi filed a civil suit on behalf of 29 women charging "relentless sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, sex abuse from male colleagues and, in many cases, from male supervisors."

Some workers have experienced retaliation since filing the charges. One found her car scratched and defaced while another was forced off the road. Others in the plant are supporting the fight against sex harassment. One of the complainants was given a standing ovation by her male co-workers, according to an article in *Time* magazine. "We know what's happened," one worker told her, "and we admire your courage."

In court Mitsubishi attorneys demanded plaintiffs' gynecological and psychological records as well as information about the women's living arrangements. "She was not sexually harassed. She was promiscuous," Roy Davis, a company lawyer, said of one of the plaintiffs.

According to the class action suit later filed by the EEOC, hundreds of women working in the plant were subjected to "unwanted grabbing, groping, and touching." In interviews with EEOC investigators and *Washington Post* reporters, Mitsubishi workers described a range of harassment. This included supervisors and workers calling women "sluts" and "whores" and displaying sexually explicit photographs in work areas and break rooms. Among the graffiti on the men's bathroom wall, the EEOC said, were lists ranking women in the

plant by their estimated breast size.

On April 22 Mitsubishi organized a protest in front of the EEOC offices in downtown Chicago. The company shut down production and offered free lunch, a day's wages, and a ride aboard one of the 58 buses for employees to attend. Management claimed the event was organized by rank-and-file workers.

Up to 3,000 workers attended the rally with signs stating "Employees Supporting MMA" and chanting "2-4-6-8, we're here to get the story straight."

The demonstration was denounced by AFL-CIO president John Sweeney, UAW president Stephen Yokich, and other top union officials.

At the same time Don Shelby, vice president of UAW Local 2488 at the Normal Mitsubishi plant, told members they were free to attend the protest and that both participants and non-participants would be paid regular wages.

Many Mitsubishi workers have been quoted in the media saying they are worried the lawsuit could hurt the company's sales and endanger their jobs, which pay better than most in the area. Company officials have recently announced they are losing



Left: NOW members protest at Ourisman Mitsubishi in Marlow Heights. Right: Mitsubishi worker at company-sponsored support rally for Mitsubishi in Chicago.

money at the Normal plant.

Mitsubishi chairman Hirokazu Nakamura admitted, "There were such cases" of harassment at the Normal plant but he insisted they had been dealt with. The company says it has fired 10 workers — four this year — for sexual harassment. Mitsubishi has hired former labor secretary Lynn Martin to develop a "workplace master plan" to deal with sexual harassment. Benassi, the lawyer in the private suit, called this move "just a publicity ploy."

There have been pickets outside several Mitsubishi dealerships supporting the EEOC suit. Rev. Jesse Jackson, of PUSH, organized a protest in mid-May at the Mitsubishi car

dealership in Oak Lawn, Illinois, as well as calling for a boycott of Mitsubishi cars. The National Organization for Women (NOW), organized picketing at a dealership in Marlow Heights, Maryland, and NOW president Patricia Ireland called for members to participate in "informational" picketing outside dealerships.

Illinois state NOW president Luellen Laurenti announced she would not join such actions directed against the automaker, saying she preferred rallies to support the alleged victims instead.

Abby Tilsner is a member of UAW Local 664 at General Motors in Tarrytown, New York.

## Texas chemical strikers demand safety

BY JERRY FREIWIRTH

HOUSTON — More than 100 striking chemical workers and their supporters from the surrounding neighborhood rallied against Rhône-Poulenc outside the plant gates here on May 13 to demand safe work conditions. Members of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 4-227 at Rhône-Poulenc hit the bricks May 6.

"We don't want to go in and lose our lives," Wesley Carter, chairman of the workers committee, told the cheering crowd. Rhône-Poulenc manufactures sulfuric acid and processes hazardous waste.

At the heart of the dispute between the 98 OCAW members and Rhône-Poulenc is the company's insistence on what it calls "autonomous maintenance." This means the company wants the right to order operators — those running the units — to carry out any and all maintenance and repair work on the complicated equipment that makes up these processing units. At the same time, they have slashed the number of unionized maintenance workers, who spend years

training to carry out these jobs.

The rally was also addressed by Carol Alvarado, president of the Manchester Civic Club and a member of the plant's Community Advisory Committee. The strikers have consciously reached out for support to the surrounding Manchester community, which is overwhelmingly working-class and Chicano in composition. The attendance by dozens of residents from the neighborhood underscored the success of this effort.

Another group of workers from the same OCAW local attended the rally wearing red T-shirts emblazoned with the slogan "Locked out by Crown Petroleum! Us Today... You Tomorrow!!!" Nearly 300 of these OCAW members were locked out by Crown last February, after negotiations during which the company demanded the right to virtually eliminate seniority rights.

Dwight Burns, an instrument technician at Rhône-Poulenc, echoed the thoughts of many at the rally when he told this reporter, "You have to be blind not to see the pattern. First Crown locks out their workers, now Rhône-Poulenc hardballs it in our negotiations. We all know the oil and chemical companies up and down the Houston Ship Channel have a mutual assistance pact. If these two companies succeed in defeating the union, there will be many more to come."

At a public meeting the day after the walk-out began, Carter explained to the 75 people present, "Our strike isn't over wages, even though we have had no rate increase for three years. This is about our safety and the safety of the community around the plant."

About 30 members of the surrounding neighborhood attended the meeting. They had been invited by an open letter issued by the union in English and Spanish.

"In recent years Rhône-Poulenc has put more and more pressure on us to run the

plant in a way that we don't feel is safe," the flyer said. "They have tried to force us to do more and more work with fewer people. We have resisted that pressure as much as possible.... We feel we had no choice but to strike."

Carol Alvarado told of previous efforts by community residents to put a stop to dangerous gas releases floating through their neighborhood. Although conditions had improved somewhat in recent years, she told of concerns by members of her association when they heard about recent conditions in the plant. It's the workers in the plant who are standing up for their safety and the safety of the surrounding community, she said.

Local 4-227's open letter read, "Many of us grew up in this neighborhood.... We know that if we run the plant so we are safe inside the fence, then you, our families and neighbors, will be safe outside the fence as well."

One maintenance worker at the plant took the floor to explain, "The boss is cutting us down paper thin." In 10 years the number of employees has been cut from 168 to 98.

Carter added, "We know what it's like watching the paint peel off your house. They say it won't hurt you. But we're not fools. There's been a rash of cancer striking workers at the plant, but the company industrial hygienist couldn't seem to find any cause."

So far, the strike is 100 percent effective. Joyce Baker, a veteran of the plant and a picket captain, explained on the picket line, "The company wanted a blank check. They said take it or leave it. They wanted operators to take on maintenance work that it takes years of training to learn. That's why more than 70 percent voted to strike."

Jerry Freiwirth is a refinery worker at Shell Oil in Houston and a member of OCAW Local 4-367.

## Women miners plan conference

BY ALYSON KENNEDY AND MARY ZINS

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — The 18th National Conference of Women Miners and Supporters sponsored by the Coal Employment Project (CEP) will be held here June 21-23. The Alabama Women Miners Support Group is co-hosting this year's meeting. The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) is also supporting the conference.

The Birmingham meeting promises to be an important national gathering of activists in the fight for women's rights and the labor movement. Shirley Hyche, a member of UMWA Local 2368 in Brookwood, Alabama, and cochair of this year's conference, reported the Support Group has selected "Opening Doors — for better paying jobs for women in the coal fields" as the theme of the weekend.

"We'll be discussing how to fight for affirmative action and jobs," said Cosby Ann Totten, a laid-off miner and director of the Coal Employment Project. Hyche said conference participants would tour the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute to learn more about the history of civil rights struggles and labor in the South.

UMWA vice president Jerry Jones, a board member of the Civil Rights Institute is scheduled to speak, as well as Carol Lippert, a long time activist in the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, a Black farmers organization. International guests are

expected to include two Peruvian women fighting privatizations of the mines, UMWA miners from western Canada, and a delegation from Women Against Pit Closures in Britain.

Workshops are planned on the fight for jobs in the mines, safety in the mines, sexual harassment and discrimination, affirmative action, a report back from the CEP delegation to the United Nations Conference on Women in Beijing, and other topics. Totten said that a draft five-year plan will be presented at the meeting. The proposal projects launching a campaign to target union and nonunion mines that have refused to hire women miners. She said CEP would like to work with others in this campaign, including young people, unionists, and workers at unorganized plants. "We invite everyone to attend," she said, "and we always issue an especially warm welcome to strikers and other fighters."

Registration for the conference is \$190, which includes meals and hotel room (double accommodations). For more information, contact CEP, P.O. Box 682, Tazewell, Virginia 24651, phone: (540) 988-5877 or the Alabama Women Miners Support Group, UMWA District 20, 1200 Fourth Ave. South, Birmingham, Alabama 35233.

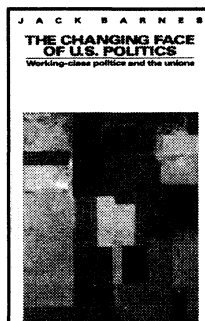
Alyson Kennedy, a member of UMWA Local 1928, and Mary Zins are activists in the CEP.

from pathfinder

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics

Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions

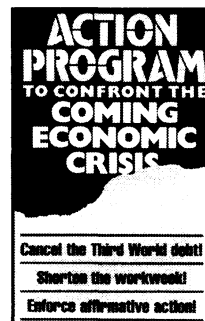
Jack Barnes A handbook for workers coming into the factories, mines, and mills, as they react to the uncertain life, ceaseless turmoil, and brutality of capitalism in the closing years of the twentieth century. \$19.95



An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis

A Program for International Working-Class Struggle Today

Edited by Doug Jenness \$3.00



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. When ordering by mail, please include \$3 to cover shipping and handling.

# Socialists: no foreclosures, troops out of Africa

**Continued from front page**  
are exploited by the banks and monopolies," Harris said.

The candidates also responded to the latest deployment of troops by the French government in the Central African Republic. French troops are patrolling the streets in the capital, Bangui, after a military uprising in the country. Paris has a decades-long history of brutal military operations to back pro-imperialist governments in West Africa.

Harris called on the labor movement in the United States and France to mount a campaign to demand both governments "immediately withdraw their troops and warships from Africa. We are opposed to any U.S. military intervention in Liberia," he added. "The acute social crisis and economic disaster affecting these countries is a result of imperialist exploitation and oppression, the crushing Third World debt, and the unequal terms of trade. Our campaign is based on international solidarity with those fighting for national sovereignty and independence, and with struggles against the grinding effects of the capitalist crisis."

Garza scored the continued U.S.-organized blockade of Iraq, saying the recent accord allowing the country to sell oil "is a violation of Iraqi sovereignty. The U.S. government and its imperialist allies are responsible for the death, malnutrition, and devastation brought upon hundreds of thousands

of Iraqi youth and workers. All punitive measures against Iraq should be lifted now!"

Garza said working people and supporters of democratic rights won a real victory with a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that struck down an amendment to the Colorado state constitution. The amendment prohibited anti-discrimination laws from applying to gays. "This ruling shows the resistance by broad layers of the population to rolling back democratic rights, and support for ending discrimination against gays," she said.

The vice presidential candidate condemned recent "anticrime," "antiterrorist," and "sexual predator" legislation signed by Clinton as "laws that are an attack on democratic rights which will be used disproportionately against working people. They aim to paint teenagers as a potentially criminal class, turn workers who have served time behind bars into a pariah layer, and make those who look Arab suspect in the eyes of the rest of the population."

Poses said she is "part of a generation that has known nothing but the depression conditions of the capitalist world disorder, and the social crises it brings upon tens of millions. We are getting a hearing among young people for the socialist campaign. We're building the protests to be held at the Republican party convention in August, the October 12 national demonstration in defense of immigrant rights, and the U.S.-Cuba

Youth Exchange where a large delegation will travel to Cuba this summer to see the revolution with our own eyes and learn the truth about Cuba for ourselves."

Asked by a reporter if any socialist candidates will be elected to federal office this year, Harris said the campaign "is part of organizing a social force—workers, work-

ing farmers, and young people who want to fight the growing devastation of capitalism and the policies of the twin parties of the wealthy minority—to act in our own interests. We want to win, which means organizing battles to change our conditions. Election to office will be a byproduct of those struggles," he said.

## Tories face crisis over EU, Ireland

**Continued from back page**

ers' wages, conditions, and jobs. The EU Commission told London May 15 that it would not meet the criteria for monetary union under its current policies because of higher-than-forecast government debt. The commission called for more cuts in spending on government programs.

In Germany, proposed cuts in social security and wage-freezes for government workers led to one-day strikes May 13. In France unions have called for a national demonstration May 29 and one-day strikes in June following the announcement of further attacks by the French rulers.

Meanwhile divisions on Ireland have come also to the fore in the wake of remarks by Major in the *Irish Times* May 16 on the forthcoming peace talks scheduled for June 10. British demands for the Irish Republican Army (IRA) to hand over their weapons would be discussed "without blocking negotiations" Major said. "I want Sinn Fein to be part of the negotiations," he added, referring to the leading party fighting to end

British rule in Northern Ireland. These latest statements prompted an unnamed cabinet minister to tell the *Financial Times*, "There is a view at the top of the party that we have gone as far as we can — and no more."

Ian Paisley, head of the rightist Democratic Unionist Party in Northern Ireland, described Major's statement as a "surrender to the IRA."

The Labour Party leadership meanwhile has shifted further to the right. Labour leader Tony Blair told a meeting of the British American Chamber of Commerce in New York April 12 that "today's Labour party, New Labour, is a party of the center as well as the center-left."

Labour's finance spokesperson, Gordon Brown, has floated plans to end child benefits currently paid for children 16-18 years old, while the social security spokesperson Chris Smith proposed on May 7 "welfare-to-work" measures and an end to the government backed "State Earnings Related Pension Scheme."

## 37,000 walk out in Norway

**Continued from front page**

cials. The offer included a pay raise of 1.50 kroner (1 kroner = \$.147); workers are demanding 3.00 kroner. Another issue is the pension age. "We wanted the pension age to be 62. Today it is 64," said Beth-Live Larsen at Kvaerner Eurake in Tranby. The contract offer was 63 years.

Downsizing, "lean production," and just-in-time inventory systems mean other manufacturers in Europe are quickly affected by the work stoppage. SAAB announced it will begin temporary layoffs at partial pay at its auto plant in Sweden May 22. Rival automaker Volvo said it might have to cut production at its factory near Gothenburg, Sweden, the following week.

Workers on the picket line enthusiastically reported that they have received support from the 2-million-strong IG Metall metalworkers union in Germany.

The big-business media in Norway is filled with speculation over whether the government will intervene and force a settlement. "We don't want the government to step in," said Morten Johansen, a worker at Kvaerner Eureka, as he walked the picket line. "It will undercut our right to strike."

The week before the machinists' strike, a six-day walkout by oil workers halted 40 percent of Norway's oil production.

*Dag Tirsén is a member of the Food Workers Union, and Birgitta Isacson is a member of the Metalworkers Union, both in Stockholm, Sweden.*

## —CALENDAR—

### FLORIDA

#### MIAMI

**Socialist Workers 1996 Campaign Rally.** Speaker: Laura Garza, Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice president. Sat., June 1, 7:30 p.m. Reception: 6:30 p.m. 137 N.E. 54th St. Donation: \$.5. Translation into Spanish and French. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### BOSTON

**Why We Need a Socialist Voice in The '96 Elections.** Speaker: James Harris, presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party. Sat., June 1, 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by Socialist Workers Campaign '96. 780 Tremont St. Donation: \$.4. Tel: (617) 648-0343.

### MINNESOTA

#### TWIN CITIES

**Benefit for U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange.** Thurs., May 30, 3:30 p.m. La Raza Student Cultural Center, Coffman Union, University of Minnesota. Sponsored by La Raza Student Cultural Center, Africana Student Cultural Center. For more information, call: (612) 625-2995.

### NEW YORK

#### MANHATTAN

**Meet James Harris, Socialist Workers Candidate for U. S. President.** Meet New York Socialist Workers Slate! Fri., May 31, 8 p.m. Reception: 7 p.m. Donation: \$.5. Translation into Spanish. For more information call (212) 328-1503.

**U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange Benefit Showcase.** Sat., June 1, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Harriet Tubman School, 127 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd. Sponsored by the N.Y. U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange Committee. For more information contact Reggie Mason at (212) 406-3980.

**Stop the Killing before It Starts. Second Annual Anti-Death Penalty Day. Protest against capital punishment.** Sun., June 2, 1 p.m. Assemble at 10 Columbus Circle. 1:30 p.m. March down Broadway to Times Square. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Rally in Times Square with speakers and entertainers. Sponsored by the New York Civil Liberties Union. For more information, call Phyllis or Jess at (212) 382-0557.

### UNITED STATES

**ALABAMA: Birmingham:** 111 21st St. South. Mailing address: Suite 252, 267 West Valley Avenue Zip 35209. Tel: (205) 323-3079. Compuserve: 103402,1231

**CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles:** 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460, 380-9640. Compuserve: 74642,326 **San Francisco:** 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 285-5323. Compuserve: 75604,556

**CONNECTICUT: New Haven:** Mailing address: P.O. Box 16751, Baybrook Station, West Haven. Zip: 06516.

**FLORIDA: Miami:** 137 N.E. 54th St. Zip: 33137. Tel: (305) 756-1020. Compuserve: 103171,1674

**GEORGIA: Atlanta:** 803 Peachtree NE. Zip: 30308. Tel: (404) 724-9759. Compuserve: 104226,1245

**ILLINOIS: Chicago:** 1223 N. Milwaukee Ave. Zip: 60622. Tel: (312) 342-1780. Compuserve: 104077,511 **Peoria:** 915 N. Western. Zip: 61650-0302. Mailing address: P.O. Box 302. Tel: (309) 676-2472. Compuserve: 104612,147

**INDIANA: Bloomington:** P.O. Box 1304. Zip: 47402. Tel: (812) 333-6859. E-mail: ysoc@hamlet.ucs.indiana.edu

**IOWA: Des Moines:** 2724 Douglas Ave. Zip: 50310. Tel: (515) 277-4600. Compuserve: 104107,1412

**MASSACHUSETTS: Boston:** 780 Tremont St. Zip: 02118. Tel: (617) 247-6772. Compuserve: 103426,3430

**MICHIGAN: Detroit:** 7414 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Compuserve: 104127,3505

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### CALIFORNIA

#### LOS ANGELES

**South Africa's New Constitution: An Historic Gain.** Speaker: Thabo Ntweng, member, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Fri., May 31, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Donation: \$.4. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### PHILADELPHIA

**The Fight for a United Ireland.** Speakers: Linda McCombs, Irish Northern Aid, Ladies Auxilary, Ancient Order of Hibernians and Irish Action Coalition; and representatives from Saoirse and Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 31, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$.4. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

## —IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP—

Tel: (313) 875-0100.

**MINNESOTA: Twin Cities:** 2490 University Ave. W., St. Paul. Zip: 55114. Tel: (612) 644-6325. Compuserve: 103014,3261

**NEW JERSEY: Newark:** 141 Halsey. Mailing address: 1188 Raymond Blvd., Suite 222. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341. Compuserve: 102330,106

**NEW YORK: Albany:** P. O. Box 2357, E.S.P. Zip: 12220. Tel: (518) 465-0585. **Brooklyn:** 59 4th Avenue (corner of Bergen) Zip: 11217. Tel: (718) 399-7257. Compuserve: 102064,2642. **New York:** 214-16 Avenue A. Mailing address: P.O. Box 2652. Zip: 10009. Tel: (212) 328-1501; 167 Charles St. Zip: 10014. Tel: (212) 366-1973. Compuserve: 104113,2150

**NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro:** 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene St. Zip 27406. Tel: (910) 272-5996. Compuserve: 103475,672.

**OHIO: Cincinnati:** P.O. Box 19484. Zip: 45219. Tel: (513) 662-1931. **Cleveland:** 1832 Euclid. Zip: 44115. Tel: (216) 861-6150. Compuserve: 103253,1111

**PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia:** 1906 South St. Zip: 19146. Tel: (215) 546-8218. Compuserve: 104502,1757 **Pittsburgh:** 1103 E. Carson St. Zip 15203. Tel: (412) 381-9785. Compuserve: 103122,720

**TEXAS: Houston:** 3260 South Loop West. Zip: 77025. Tel: (713) 349-0090. Compuserve: 102527,2271

**UTAH: Salt Lake City:** 209 E. 300 S. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124. Compuserve: 76714,1545

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** 1930 18th St. N.W. Suite #3 (Entrance on Florida Av.). Zip: 20009. Tel: (202) 387-2185. Compuserve: 75407,3345.

**WASHINGTON: Seattle:** 1405 E. Madison. Zip: 98122. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Compuserve: 74461,2544.

**WEST VIRGINIA: Morgantown:** 242 Walnut. Mailing address: P.O. Box 203. Zip:

26507. Tel: (304) 296-0055. Compuserve: 70543,1637

### AUSTRALIA

**Sydney:** 19 Terry St., Surry Hills 2010. Mailing address: P.O. Box K879, Haymarket, NSW 2000. Tel: 02-281-3297. Compuserve: 102174,1243

### BRITAIN

**London:** 47 The Cut. Postal code: SE1 8LL. Tel: 0171-928-7993. Compuserve: 101515,2702

**Manchester:** Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Postal code: M4 4AA. Tel: 0161-839-1766.

### CANADA

**Montreal:** 4581 Saint-Denis. Postal code: H2J 2L4. Tel: (514) 284-7369. Compuserve: 75253,265

**Toronto:** 827 Bloor St. West. Postal code: M6G 1M1. Tel: (416) 533-4324. Compuserve: 103474,13

**Vancouver:** 3967 Main St. Postal code: V5V 3P3. Tel: (604) 872-8343. Compuserve: 103430,1552

### FRANCE

**Paris:** MBE 201, 208 rue de la Convention. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (1) 47-26-58-21. Compuserve: 73504,442

### ICELAND

**Reykjavik:** Klappartíg 26. Mailing address: P. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Tel: 552 5502. INTERNET: gphssg@treknet.is

### NEW ZEALAND

**Auckland:** La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 379-3075. Compuserve: 100035,3205

**Christchurch:** 199 High St. Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 365-6055. Compuserve: 100250,1511

### SWEDEN

**Stockholm:** Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. Compuserve: 100416,2362



**What price sexism** — “Women are half as likely as men to receive an employer-provided pension, and those who do receive one will get half as much on average as men,”



Harry Ring

according to a survey by the Women's Research and Education Institute.” — News item.

**Report from Planet Mars** — You take Gallup polls as gospel? Hear this: In a survey for *Inc.* maga-

zine, Gallup found that 90 percent of U.S. workers aren't worried about losing their jobs; 70 percent believe management does what's needed to make the company a good place to work; and 69 percent feel that over the past year they were paid fairly.

**Facts can be dangerous** — In Birmingham, Alabama, a recently unveiled monument depicts the historic 1963 confrontation between civil rights marchers and cops with police dogs. Declared William Odom, prez of the Fraternal Order of Police: “My first thought was, ‘My God, we don't need to provoke people.’”

“Tell us about it — A 1994-95

survey showed that 41 million U.S. people had trouble getting some type of health care. Difficulties ranged from surgery to mental health needs to eyeglasses. A co-author of the study judiciously advised: “Ability to pay is the most important factor in obtaining health care.”

**Wimpy's no wimp** — Asserting they've seen “a great improvement in customer confidence,” the British owners of the Wimpy franchise chain in England have resumed using English beef. McDonald's and Burger King said they're not sure the “mad cow” disease scare is over and they'll wait a while.

Talk about ‘Mad Cow’ —

McDonald's will spend \$100 million to hype and hustle its new Arch DeLuxe, a dressed-up cheeseburger with lettuce and tomato. In a three-pronged launch, they rented New York's Radio City Music Hall, Hollywood's Pacific Cinerama Dome and the Sky Dome in Toronto to present a 70-foot-tall model of the burger.

**McShyster** — In London, McDonald's is suing two London Greenpeace activists for libel for distributing a leaflet charging it promotes an unhealthy diet, underpays its workers, is antiunion, and more.

In the trial, now in its second year, one McD exec testified that the food is nutritious because it includes “nutrients,” and that Coca

Cola is nutritious because it includes water, “part of a balanced diet.”

**No more smoke-filled rooms?** — Rep. John Boehner said that after being queried by two new members of the House, he's stopped distributing campaign checks from the tobacco lobby on the House floor. He can understand why someone might be upset. “It sure doesn't look good,” he said.

**Thought for the week** — “Christ did not promise a chicken in every pot or the elimination of poverty in our lifetime.” — Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, arguing that socialism and “Christian virtues” are incompatible.

## YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD

# Protests against death penalty, Irish deportations

This column is written and edited by the Young Socialists, an international organization of young workers, students, and other youth fighting for socialism. For more information write about the YS, write P.O. Box 14392, St. Paul, MN 55114. Tel: (612) 644-0051, Fax: (612) 645-1674

BY STEVE GORDON AND TRAVIS LEA

MARIN COUNTY, California — At 12:08 a.m. May 3, Keith Daniel Williams was executed in San Quentin State Prison by lethal injection. Williams's last appeal to the United States Supreme Court was rejected two hours before the execution. Williams, the fourth person to be executed in this state since the death penalty was reinstated, had been on death row since 1979.

In the hours leading up to the execution, a crowd of about 300 gathered to protest the state-sanctioned murder. Young Socialists for Harris and Garza campaigned for a socialist alternative to capitalist politics behind the banner of “Abolish the death penalty to the back pages of history!”

Members of the Human Rights Defense Committee came from San Jose to show their opposition to the death penalty. The committee was formed in April in response to the fatal police shooting of Gustavo Soto Mesa. José Luis Candelario, a 37-year-old construction worker and member of the committee, said, “Murder by the state is a murder like any other. No one has the right to take the life of another person.”

Rachel Peres, another committee activist, stated, “The death penalty is not going to bring justice.” Among the speakers was Daryl Meyers, whose son JoJo White was murdered in San Francisco on January 19.

He spoke of his son's trip to Cuba as an event that changed JoJo's life and raised his social consciousness.

One of the few pro-death penalty demonstrators interrupted Meyers, aggressively yelling, “Don't we have a voice too?” Meyers responded, “Yes! The majority of this country's politicians, judges, and mainstream media support your view! Now it's our turn!”

Among the speakers, a taped message was played from Mumia Abu-Jamal, a Black political activist on Pennsylvania's death row. His message called attention to the racist character of the death penalty, citing statistics that show the percentage of Blacks on death row is far greater than their proportion of the population in this country.

California's death row is the largest in the United States, with 439 inmates. More than 39 percent of them are Black, while Blacks represent 7 percent of this state's population.

The Williams case is a typical example of the workings of the bourgeois justice system. In this case, his history of mental illness was suppressed by the state during the trial. His appeals to revoke the death sentence based on this suppression of evidence were denied.

Steve Gordon and Travis Lea are Young Socialists for Harris and Garza in San Francisco.

BY TAMI PETERSON

CHICAGO — Some 30 people gathered at the British Consulate here May 5 to commemorate the anniversary of the death of Bobby Sands, the first of 10 Irish prisoners to die on a hunger strike in the early 1980s. Participants held signs of the 10 hunger strikers and placards reading, “No more British

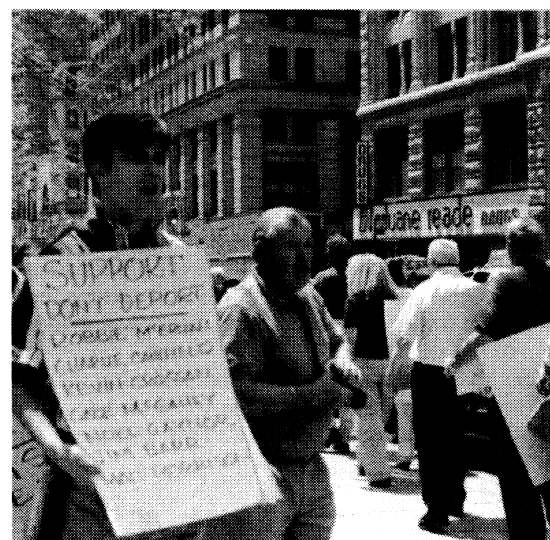
stalling” and “800 years, it's time to go.”

The featured speaker was Matt Morrison, a former prisoner who is facing deportation back to the north of Ireland. He currently resides in St. Louis. Morrison spoke about Bobby Sands and said when Sands died 15 years ago, he was 100 yards away doing time in the same prison.

“I can tell you that no criminal would've died for his convictions the way that Sands did,” Morrison said. “They tried to brand Sands a criminal. I can tell you now with all of the strength I can muster that Sands was no criminal in 1981 and Matt Morrison is no criminal in 1996!” he said to applause.

“It's time for people to start realizing what it means that this so-called antiterrorist legislation was passed in this country,” Morrison said. “We know from experience in Ireland that emergency legislation has a way of becoming very permanent. We also know that bills like this are used to harass political people and working people.”

This demonstration was one of the various activities organized by the Irish American Student Organization. They have been showing a film titled *An Ordinary Day*, which was made by the residents of the Lower Ormeau Road in Belfast, Northern Ireland.



Militant/Marc Lichtman

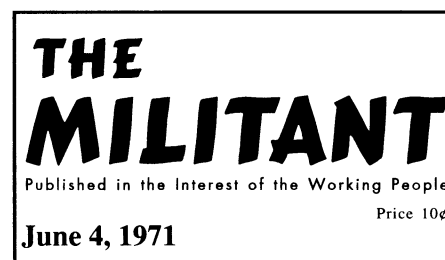
May 1 picket in New York against deportation of Irish activists

In August 1995, the rightist Orange marches came into the predominantly Catholic neighborhood. The British army hemmed the residents of the community while protecting and supporting the Orange Order's march.

The video chronicles many instances of police brutality and makes a good case for the slogan “Troops out now!”

Tami Peterson is a member of the Young Socialists and Irish Northern Aid.

## —25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—



June 1, 1946

May 27 — U.S. Army troops have been ordered out for strikebreaking duty against American workers.

As the 400,000 soft coal miners today resumed their bitter strike for health and safety conditions in defiance of Truman's “seizure” of the mines, an armored detachment of 150 soldiers from Camp Campbell moved into the Madisonville, Ky., mine fields to escort scabs and “protect” the nearby Pond River colliery.

For the first time since Roosevelt used troops to break the North American Aviation strike in 1941, the federal government and administration employed armed forces against workers fighting for their rights.

Despite United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis' declaration of a two-week strike truce on May 10, large numbers of the wrathful miners had refused to abandon their traditional policy of “No contract, no work.” Incensed by Truman's strikebreaking “seizure” of the mines, the rank and file strike movement spread rapidly last week prior to the railroad strike. More than 200,000 miners were already out, when the rail strike brought a virtual halt to mining operations.

Every form of government pressure and intimidation is being brought to bear against the miners. Even the threat of armed force by the capitalist government failed to cow them. Up and down the coal fields, the slogan is: “You can't mine coal with bayonets.”

# Montreal activist banned from participating in rallies

BY BRIGITTE GROUX

MONTREAL — A serious attack on democratic rights took place here on April 23, when Richard Saint-Pierre, a long-time political activist, was sentenced to 10 days in jail and was banned from participating in any public demonstrations for three years by Judge Jean-Pierre Bonin. Saint-Pierre was charged with knocking over a table on December 6 of 1994, during a demonstration against unemployment insurance cuts.

The protest was part of a series of cuts known as the Axworthy Reforms. Demonstrators were trying to stop public hearings on the Axworthy Reforms. Saint-Pierre was put in jail immediately after being sentenced.

“Am I a threat to society when I demonstrate?” Saint-Pierre asked. “Am I more dangerous than the governments who cut social programs? Than bosses who lay off workers? Am I more dangerous than owners at Kenworth?” he continued, referring to the truck plant in nearby Ste-Therese, where workers have been on strike for eight months. At the beginning of April the company said it will close the plant. Saint-Pierre is planning to appeal the demonstration ban.

The day Saint-Pierre was sentenced, the Committee of unemployed of Quebec had

a press conference denouncing the ban. “The Axworthy Reforms are unacceptable attacks against the poorest of the society. We believe that it is our fundamental right to resist... the attacks by governments to impoverish us,” said their press release. “The new method of the repressive police-justice apparatus to ‘break’ activists by banning them from demonstrations was used last year against another activist, Alexandre Popovic,” continued the press release.

The attacks on Saint-Pierre democratic rights have been protested by several organizations. “To demonstrate is part of freedom of expression,” stated Gerald McKenzie from La Ligue des droits et libertés (the League of Rights and Freedom), a human rights organization.

Yves Manceau, from the Office for the rights of the detainees, explained that the sentence “occurs when the police is increasingly watching on community organizations and dissidents. Will they be able to force them into silence by condemning them for minor offenses?”

Messages of support can be sent by mail to: Comité des sans emplois, 1710 rue Beaudry, Montreal, Quebec, H2L 2E2. Tel: (514) 596-4401, Fax: (514) 596-7093.

# Build Cuba Youth Exchange!

With six weeks left to get in an application, one of the most important things for readers to do over the next month and a half is to talk to every person you know: classmates, coworkers, fellow political activists, and friends, about the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange in July. Workers on picket lines, youth fighting police brutality, defending Mumia Abu Jamal, or linking arms to keep abortion clinics open, and those who take to the streets demanding equal rights for immigrants are the ones who need to find the facts about the Cuban revolution first hand.

It's not an accident that Washington intensifies its attacks on working people inside the United States at the same time it steps up its economic war on Cuba's socialist revolution. Why?

As Cuban president Fidel Castro eloquently explained in a speech at the United Nations in 1960, "The government of the United States cannot be on the side of the peasants because it is an ally of the landowners. It cannot be on the side of the workers anywhere in the world because it is an ally of the monopolies. It cannot be on the side of the colonies because it is an ally of the colonizing powers."

And Cuba is among the most important trenches of freedom in the world. "We are situated only a few steps away from U.S. imperialism," said Ernesto Che Guevara in another speech to the United Nations in 1964, "but we have shown by our actions, by our daily example, that in the present conditions of humanity the peoples can liberate themselves and keep themselves free." (These speeches are published in the Pathfinder book *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' against Cuba Doesn't End.*)

For 37 years Cuban working people have lived up to this accurate assessment by the most authoritative representatives of the Cuban revolution. It is their example that the masters of Wall Street aim to destroy and in the meantime hide from young people and workers with their travel ban to the island.

So go to Cuba and see for yourself. Organizers of the youth exchange urge everyone interested to fill out an application and send it in now. This will greatly reduce

chances of not being able to go because of late filing, or last-minute problems with passport information and other details. It will clear logistical problems so that real time can be devoted to political preparation, raising money, and recruiting others to the Exchange. Filling out an application is also a way to make a minimal but serious commitment to the trip.

This Youth Exchange is organized by the National Network on Cuba for all youth, from those who have heard very little about Cuba, but are open to seeing it firsthand, to those who have been steadfast defenders of the Cuban revolution. In city after city, the best tool to win new people to the Exchange is joining other activities and hooking up with those taking a stand in struggles on the side of the exploited and oppressed. They are attracted to the Cuban revolution because it, like them, refuses to kneel down at the feet of Yankee imperialism.

Youth Exchange participants should also seize the moment to begin to study the history of the Cuban revolution. Reading books and pamphlets such as Guevara's *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War*, *To Speak the Truth*, and the *Second Declaration of Havana*, and the article *Defending Cuba, Defending Cuba's Socialist Revolution* by Mary-Alice Waters is the best preparation for the trip (see ad on page 6). These very same educational activities can be made public to draw more people into the Youth Exchange.

Organizing such classes, while carrying out a barrage of fundraisers, video showings, speaking engagements, and, where possible, getting media coverage, will maximize the possibility of building a sizable and broad delegation.

As part of these organizing efforts, participants can begin laying the groundwork to report back the truth about Cuba to any and all that will lend an ear. Political forums, house meetings, and panel discussions to share experiences from the trip, are powerful tools to build support for the next set of activities in defense of Cuba coming up in the fall.

All out to build the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange!

# Repeal 'Megan's Law'

President William Clinton has just signed a bill that requires local notification of persons convicted of a sex offense after their release from prison. The law is an attack that working people and those who support democratic rights should denounce.

The legislation, commonly known as "Megan's Law" after a 7-year-old who was raped and killed in New Jersey, requires all states to notify communities when a person who had been convicted of a sex offense moves into their neighborhoods. The notification ranges from telling local officials to ordering visits with each neighbor, depending on the state's arbitrary classification of the person. The law adds years to a person's sentence without the right to a trial and jury. The law implores vigilantism, and becomes another handle for the police to go after anyone on "the list."

The passage of this law is part and parcel of a series of bipartisan attacks on democratic rights. From the omnibus "anti-terrorist" law and pending anti-immigration legislation, to the Clinton administration's so-called crime

bill, the White House and Congress are trying to create a pariah layer who can be denied their rights and held up as a scapegoat for the social crisis that capitalism breeds.

"Megan's Law" has nothing to do with protecting women and children, as the president claims. The arrogance of the rulers' professed concern for children is especially hypocritical given Washington's six-year economic blockade that has starved hundreds of thousands of children in Iraq, as well as the continued attacks on welfare, Medicare and Social Security.

What this legislation does do is attack the presumption of innocence, the right to due process, and other Constitutional guarantees working people have conquered over decades. It is a law that can be used against working-class fighters, such as Mark Curtis. One of the pretexts under which this framed-up unionist has been denied release on parole so far is that he has been branded a "sex offender."

Workers and all democratic-minded fighters should demand the immediate repeal of this latest legal attack on our rights.

# Lift embargo on Iraq

**Continued from front page**

demand the immediate lifting of all trade and economic sanctions on Iraq and the withdrawal of U.S. ships, jets, and soldiers in the Persian Gulf and elsewhere in the region.

As many as 576,000 Iraqi children have died as a result of the sanctions since 1990, when they were imposed by Washington using the fig leaf of the United Nations for cover. Over the past half-decade the mortality rate for children under the age of five has increased five-fold.

The conditions rammed down the throat of the Iraqi regime on May 20 mandate that the \$2 billion in oil revenues over six months go into an account under strict UN control. Only two-thirds can be spent on food and medicine. Imperialist troops with the blue UN helmets will be in charge of delivering purchased supplies to the Kurdish area in northern Iraq.

The remaining funds will be expropriated by the United Nations to pay for "reparations" to the Kuwaiti regime and the expenses of UN monitors inside Iraq. The UN Security Council can renew or scuttle the deal in six months.

Except for this limited export of oil — a small fraction of the \$18 billion per year Iraq used to sell before the embargo — the harsh sanctions against Iraq remain in full effect.

Five years after dropping 88,000 tons of bombs on Iraq

and slaughtering hundreds of thousands in cold blood, including literally thousands buried alive, Washington still hopes it can remove Saddam Hussein and replace his regime with one amenable to U.S. dictates.

That's why President William Clinton refuses to lift the embargo, regardless of the immense suffering it causes for the Iraqi people.

Using Baghdad's reactionary invasion of Kuwait in 1990 as a pretext, the U.S. rulers tried to use military might to install a reliable regime subservient to their interests in Iraq and shift the relationship of forces against the toilers in the region — especially in Iran where the hated client regime of Shah Reza Pahlevi was overthrown in 1979. They aimed to secure more control over oil reserves in the Gulf in order to deal economic and political blows to their imperialist allies and competitors in Japan and Europe, who are heavily dependent on Mideast oil.

Washington has failed to accomplish these goals. So in order to assert its domination in the region it has recently amassed 20,000 troops in the Middle East, mostly on U.S. navy ships, and has maintained a tight squeeze on Baghdad. The Iraqi people have paid dearly with their lives.

Workers, farmers, youth, and all democratic minded people need to oppose Washington's imperial aggression and demand: U.S. out of the Middle East! Lift the embargo on Iraq now!

# Immigration is a right

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — In her letter, Pauline Tangiora adds to the article I wrote on a rally for immigrant rights held here April 25 by outlining the speech she gave to the rally. Tangiora says residence in Aotearoa (New Zealand) or any other country is a privilege, not a right, for immigrants.

The rulers in New Zealand, as in the United States,

# DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

France, and other capitalist countries, want us to accept that immigrants should be unequal. They are moving to restrict the access of immigrants to education, health care, and other social benefits, and to beef up the powers of the cops to harass them.

The bosses and their governments aren't just going after immigrants. Their purpose is to attack the wages, conditions, social entitlements, and democratic rights of all working people. To do this, they target those they consider most vulnerable and seek to divide us, appealing to fears and resentments in the middle class and layers of the working class. When the rulers try to undermine the unity of our class in this way, we should act according to the time-honored slogan of the international workers movement — "An injury to one is an injury to all" — and demand equal rights for immigrants.

The issues Tangiora raises are part of a wider debate taking place in New Zealand in response to a campaign by prominent rightist politician Winston Peters, himself a Maori, who scapegoats immigrants for the lack of jobs and the decline of health and education services. "I go into restaurants where every waiter or waitress is an immigrant, every second taxi driver, [yet] there are thousands of New Zealanders unemployed," he said in a recent speech.

Some Maori spokespeople have specifically counterposed the interests of Maori and immigrants. For example, Bishop Vercoe, the Anglican Bishop of Aotearoa, claims that as immigration increases, Maori become a smaller minority, and therefore are worse off. "The people who are invited here to become citizens and live and invest in New Zealand are people with money. And there is no way we can compete against that," he said recently.

Maori, an oppressed nationality, the big majority of whom are workers and working farmers, have been disproportionately affected by the social and economic crisis of capitalism. The rate of Maori unemployment, for instance, is more than double that of non-Maori. But, as many placards on the April 25 rally proclaimed, "Migrants are not the problem!" It's the bosses, who are downsizing and laying off thousands, who are responsible for joblessness.

As they stake out their position in a world marked by sharpening interimperialist rivalry, the rulers of imperialist nations like New Zealand are drawn into sharper conflicts with their competitors, and ultimately wars. This is what fuels their sharper nationalism today. They seek to demarcate who is part of their New Zealand nation (and who isn't) and get working people to march behind their "Kiwi" flag. Campaigns against "foreigners" and "immigrants," like that waged by Winston Peters and his New Zealand First party, are part of this reactionary drive.

Defining New Zealand as "bi-cultural," meaning Maori and white New Zealanders above others, as Tangiora does, reflects the same nationalist politics.

History shows that the ruling rich are not as non-violent and peace-loving as Tangiora seems prepared to grant. In the late 1800s, a profit-driven band of merchants, financiers, and land-grabbers, the direct forebearers of today's ruling class, forged the New Zealand capitalist state through a bloody war of conquest against the Maori tribes. The Treaty of Waitangi, signed between the British crown and Maori chiefs in 1840, was a cover for their initial colonization, as were similar treaties signed with indigenous peoples in North America, Africa, and elsewhere.

Workers and small farmers of European origin cannot be lumped together with their exploiters, the same gang of robbers who dispossessed the Maori, in an entity called the "treaty partner." Rather, the interests of the working class and the oppressed stand in opposition to the capitalist rulers and can only be advanced through unity against them.

The continuing resistance of working people is the biggest obstacle to the capitalists' offensive against our rights and living standards and their drive to war. Protests last year in opposition to a proposal by the government for a final settlement of Maori claims on land and resources and a series of land occupations by Maori were an important illustration of this resistance. The April 25 rally for immigrant rights was another example of the kind of militant fightback needed. It also demonstrated the fast-growing international character of the working class.

More immigration strengthens, not weakens, the fight for Maori national rights, and the cause of working people generally. This is because the more international our class is, the stronger it is, as new workers come bringing their experiences of how to fight, and make it harder for the rulers to split us along national lines.

— TERRY COGGAN

*Terry Coggan is a member of the Meat Workers Union in Auckland.*



# Liverpool dockers reach out for more support

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important

Angeles port in California as part of a worldwide fight for union recognition.

In the coming week the dockers will take their fight to the International Transport Federation based in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting adjourned to participate in a lobby of the Home Office in support of Bayo Omoyiola, who works

## ON THE PICKET LINE

struggles. Jot down a few lines about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

LIVERPOOL, England — Dock workers here voted with a massive show of hands "to remain in dispute until we get a resolution" at their weekly mass meeting May 17.

The meeting heard from delegates who had traveled around the country and the world. Bob Ritchie reported he had addressed all the dockers at the Atlantic Containers Line terminal in Gothenburg, Sweden. "Their leadership will recommend action" on May 21, he said.

During the week, national conferences of two UK public service unions and a pensioners' gathering had supported the locked-out Liverpool dockers, now in their eighth month of dispute with the Mersey Docks and Harbour Co. Two weeks earlier, Kevin Robinson reported to the dockers' mass meeting on his participation at the 17th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers in Havana. "Kevin was very enthusiastic about Cuba," commented one union member.

At the May 17 meeting, Doreen McNulty of Women on the Waterfront, made up of dockers' relatives, explained how they were traveling around the country to gain support. "Don't underestimate WOW," she said.

A representative of the African Liberation Support Campaign in London pledged to "try to get as many Black people as possible in support of the campaign." Another speaker pointed to a strike by 6,000 Mexican truck drivers at the Los

for the local council and faces deportation.

### Cafeteria strikers win support at GM plant

OSHAWA, Ontario — Sixty-five cafeteria workers are into the fifth week of their strike at the sprawling GM truck and car assembly plant in this town near Toronto. The members of Local 414 of the Retail Wholesale Canada Division of the United Steelworkers of America, who work at the Versa Service Cafeterias, have won solidarity from auto production and other workers in the area. The unionists, most of whom are women, are carrying out their first strike ever.

At a May 15 solidarity picket of 35 in front of the GM truck plant, Local 414 chairperson Edith Pike explained that the company had refused to talk to the strikers since they walked out April 19. After a four-year wage freeze, Versa Services bosses are demanding another three-year freeze and that workers pay for 50 percent of current benefits.

"They thought we were just a bunch of women that wouldn't strike," said striker Jeanette Beaman, who has worked as a cafeteria worker for 23 years.

Beaman reported that four of the seven cafeterias were shut down completely and none were operating on the midnight shift. Managers are trying to keep things going. "We had a 100 percent strike vote," she said.

The strikers have been picketing at a number of gates each day, holding up tractor trailers delivering "just-in-time" auto and truck parts.

"Some lines in the plant have been slowed down," said Rob, a



Militant/Tim Rigby

Locked out dock workers led May Day march of 2,000 through the streets of Liverpool.

Canadian Auto Workers member in the GM paint shop, who turned out to the solidarity picket to support his wife and the other strikers.

### Massachusetts gas workers fight lockout

BOSTON — Members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 12004 at Commonwealth Gas (COMGas) in eastern Massachusetts have been locked out since March 31, after they overwhelmingly voted down a concession contract. Only two of the 372 members voted in favor of the proposal, which included more than 50 takeback demands.

One key issue is the company's demand to use outside contractors on live gas mains. The workers view this as a serious threat to union jobs, which have already declined 35 percent since 1990, due to a combination of crew-cutting, meter automation, and the use of subcontractors on service lines and on digging and laying pipe.

The unionists say this is also a question of safety. On May 10, the Westborough town water department hit a live gas main that COMGas management personnel had assured them wasn't there. Over

100 residents were evacuated as gas bubbled up for over an hour. Two weeks earlier, inexperienced contractors used as scabs, dug four holes in a newly paved street in Worcester looking for a leak. It took them six or seven hours to fix it.

Serviceman and union spokesman Bob Franke said that other important takebacks include the introduction of a two-tier wage system which they believe would divide and weaken the union, a 15 percent co-payment of health insurance premiums — on top of other serious health-care concessions in the last contract — and transfers from one job-reporting location to another on 24 hours' notice, increasing the commute by up to two hours each way.

A series of successful rallies have drawn large turnouts of union members, as well as support from other unions, especially other USWA locals that organize workers at Boston Gas and Bay State Gas, both of which had strikes of several months' duration in the past few years.

### 12,000 teachers march to state gov't in Sydney

SYDNEY, Australia — As part of an April 23 one-day strike by

New South Wales teachers, 12,000 marched on the state Parliament in Sydney to demand a 12 percent raise over two years without cuts in working conditions. The strike was the first joint action ever organized by the NSW Teachers' Federation, which organizes public school teachers, and the NSW Independent Education Union, which organizes teachers in Catholic and independent schools.

The April 23 strike followed a March 7 one-day strike that included a mass meeting of 2,500 Teachers' Federation members at Sydney Town Hall, and a March 20 half-day strike. The state Labor government has responded by offering a 7.1 percent raise that would include big cuts to sick leave and larger class sizes. Further strike action is planned.

Contributors to this week's column were: Debbie Delange, member of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union in Manchester, England; Sylvie Charbin and John Steele, members of International Association of Machinists Local 2113 in Toronto; Sarah Ullman, member of United Transportation Union Local 1473 in Boston; and Doug Cooper, in Sydney.

## — LETTERS —

### Immigration is not a right

Regarding your article by Terry Coggan on page 12, "500 rally to defend immigrant rights." [Militant, May 13, 1996]

As a person also attending the rally, one needs to give another view of what happened during the speeches. One heard speaker after speaker of their rights to be in Aotearoa—New Zealand, but few acknowledged their responsibilities towards the Indigenous Peoples and those who shared the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840. I heard a call for a vigilante group to deal with issues that were being addressed — that of violence! As a Maori in my own land, the opportunity was offered for anyone to speak and so I took this occasion to state the following points:

1. When one goes to another country, then they must respect the people of the land — it is courtesy and respectful and may I add incumbent in many Asian countries to do so.

2. If you wish to reside here, then firstly make oneself aware of the history, that one be informed e.g. Treaty of Waitangi and the obligations of all who wish to reside here under this agreement.

3. Residence in Aotearoa is not of right but a privilege here and in any country one may wish to immigrate to.

4. As Maori — the Indigenous peoples, and I'm of the opinion our Treaty Partner will not, and cannot, condone violence in any form. Peaceful dialogue must be the priority.

5. Resettlement of refugees is not the issue of the day.

6. Aotearoa is first a bi-cultural country. When we accept this, then we can move on to address the fabric of the multicultural mix and then respect for one another will grow.

Finally racism starts with attitudes — maybe the above areas be first addressed. Maybe Mr. Coggan could or should have made reference to the Tangata Whenua statement as well.

Pauline E. Tangiora  
Aotearoa, New Zealand

### Israeli terror not new

No one should be surprised by the May 8 United Nations report suggesting that Israel's attack on the United Nations refugee camp in southern Lebanon in April was no mistake. Not only is the evidence overwhelming — the pattern, type, and location of artillery shells dropped and videotape shot by a Norwegian soldier in the peace-keeping unit — but Israel's sordid past confirms it as well.

The Israeli state has since its founding worked to perfect the tech-



nique of terrorizing the mass populations of Palestinians through these kinds of bombing campaigns. On April 9, 1948, 254 Palestinians were murdered at the village of Deir Yassin by Zionist military units. This led to the mass exodus of some 200,000 Palestinians by the time of the founding of the Israeli state on May 15, 1948. Since then, thousands and thousands of Palestinians have been driven from their homes in successive campaigns, both inside Israel and to other refugee camps in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and elsewhere.

One of the more horrific ex-

amples occurred on Sept. 15, 1982, in the refugee camps at Sabra and Shatila in Lebanon, where an estimated 3,000 Palestinians of a population of 20,000 were brutally tortured and massacred by the Israeli-backed Phalangists, under Israeli protection.

Despite the overwhelming evidence for these and other atrocities by the Israeli rulers, Washington continues its support. Only days after the May 8 revelation, the U.S. government moved to extradite a central Hamas leader from the United States to Israel for the conviction of supposed terrorist crimes in Israel.

Those in the U.S. and around the world who identify with the fight against the Israeli occupation of Lebanon and who are repulsed by Washington's support for the racist, murderous regime in Tel Aviv, need to demand Israel out of Lebanon, an end to all U.S. ties to Tel Aviv, and for the immediate establishment of a democratic, secular Palestine.  
Abby Tilsner  
New York, New York

### 'Former Soviet Union?'

The editorial on Chernobyl in the May 13 Militant referred to the "former Soviet Union." Previous Militant articles appeared explaining why the term "former Yugoslavia," could not be used and that we should not give imperialism what it has not been able to take. It would be helpful if the Militant would explain the difference between the two countries and why the same reasoning would not apply to both.

Gary Cohen  
Arlington, Massachusetts

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

## Divisions sharpen in UK Tory party

BY TONY HUNT

LONDON, England — Deep divisions within the Conservative Party, in government since 1979, have sharpened recently. There is open talk of a split in the main party of Britain's ruling rich because of their inability to bolster London's weak position in the pecking order of the world's imperialist powers. The divisions center on Britain's membership in the European Union (EU) and plans for the formation of a single European currency by 1999. The Conservatives are also at odds because of their failure to crush the resistance to Britain's military occupation of Northern Ireland.

The Tories lost 573 seats in local councils elections May 2, their second worst performance in local election history. This result, previous electoral defeats, and a series of scandals have led the big-business press to predict a victory by the Labour Party at the general election. "In a year's time... you will almost certainly be living under a new government," the conservative *Daily Telegraph* commented May 15. "The emotions that the present Government evoke most often are frustration, anger and contempt," the paper said.

### Tensions with EU over beef ban

"Britain powerless to act on beef ban" was the main *Daily Telegraph* headline May 16. London it said had "no effective sanctions against the European Union" as a worldwide ban on British-produced beef and beef products continued. The ban was imposed after a potential link between a fatal brain disease affecting beef cattle known as BSE and its human equivalent was admitted by Whitehall after denying it for several years. The BSE crisis had "already cost the Government £1 billion and inflicted considerable damage on the beef industry" said the *Telegraph*. British Prime Minister John Major had acknowledged, the paper said, that it was the biggest crisis since the 1982 war against Argentina over the Malvinas islands.

Government ministers predicted a partial lifting of the ban at a May 20 EU meeting. French President Jacques Chirac said he would support this move during a state visit to Britain May 15. The German government, however, continued to oppose any easing of the beef ban.

The beef ban has intensified the internal



Protest in London demands freedom for Irish political prisoners. The Major government's inability to defeat Irish struggle adds to strains on Conservative Party.

conflict in the Tory party over the EU. Former government minister John Redwood, who challenged Major for the conservative leadership last year, denounced the ban as an attack on a "potent symbol of British identity." Writing in the *Financial Times* May 16 he also attacked the single currency and other moves towards "a common for-

eign and defense policy." Britain would lose "our voice in the world and most of our capacity for self-government" he said.

Former cabinet minister Norman Tebbit argued that Britain's capitalists should look more to markets in Asia, in a debate on BBC television May 14 with another ex-minister, Edwina Currie.

Kenneth Clarke, the chancellor of the exchequer (finance minister) dismissed such views May 15. "The European Union is vital to our national interests, both commercial and political... The two are inextricably linked," he said. Supporters of a single currency like Clarke argue that it would reduce the costs to capitalists for foreign exchange transactions and fluctuations on the currency markets in Europe.

### Billionaire launches Referendum Party

Meanwhile right-wing billionaire James Goldsmith has launched a new party, the Referendum Party, supported by ex-Conservatives including a former party treasurer. Goldsmith's party will contest the next election to the British Parliament, due within 12 months, on a single proposal to hold a referendum on whether the United Kingdom should leave the EU. Clarke attacked any proposal for a referendum. The same day fellow cabinet minister and chair of the Conservative Party Brian Mawhinney said, "At the next election the Conservative Party will be the referendum party." The threat from Goldsmith, with whom Redwood held a much publicized meeting, has prompted speculation of a split. One conservative Member of Parliament, George Walden, told Channel 4 television that a split was inevitable and "quite a good thing."

However the political battle shakes out, Westminster will be pushing to cut work-

Continued on Page 12

## Thousands demand rights in West Papua

BY EUGEN LEPOU

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Thousands of people rioted in Jayapura, the capital of Indonesia's Irian Jaya, on March 18. Irian Jaya, the western half of the island New Guinea, is a former Dutch colony known as West Papua until it was handed over to Indonesian rule in 1963. West Papuans were protesting the death of a former leader of the Free Papua Movement (OPM), Thomas Wapoi Wainggai, who died in an Indonesian prison while serving a 20-year jail sentence for his opposition to Jakarta's rule over West Papua.

The riots erupted during a funeral procession by over 3,000 people who went to

the airport to await the arrival of Wainggai's body. The marchers were stopped by government soldiers, who fired shots over the heads of the procession. Three people were killed,

scores were injured, and 37 were arrested.

These protests followed four days of rioting by several hundred Papuan villagers earlier in March in the mining towns of Tembagapura and Timika. These riots temporarily forced the closure of the huge Freeport gold and copper mine.

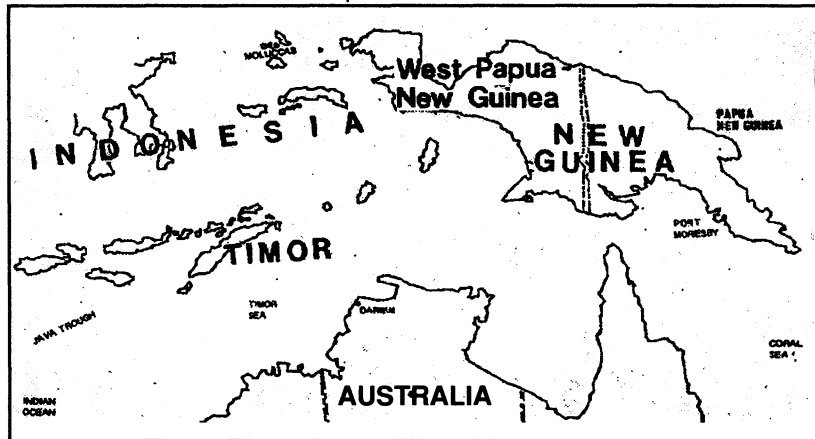
The protests began in the mountain town of Tembagapura when a Papuan resident was beaten by security officers while trying to enter a hospital to visit a friend. A meeting held to protest the beating drew 300 people from surrounding villages.

The meeting circulated a three-page list of demands against Freeport McMoran Copper and Gold Incorporated, the U.S.-based company that operates the copper and gold mine. These included firing several security officers, improved housing in Banti and other villages, and better training and promotional opportunities for the company's Papuan employees.

Five hundred government troops were flown into Timika, the lowlands town that services Tembagapura, to put down the protests, which left five Papuans dead and many others injured.

The Freeport operation is the world's biggest gold mine and third biggest copper mine. When Tembagapura was established in the early 1970s to serve the new mine, the villages of the local Amungme people were uprooted and moved.

Freeport dumps about 110,000 tons of waste from its mines into the local river systems a day. The local Papuan population suffers systematic discrimination and physical abuse at the hands of Freeport and its security force in Tembagapura, a company



town that is home to 15,000 Freeport employees and their dependents.

Local Papuans are prevented from entering Tembagapura's modern shopping center by Freeport security guards. The villagers may be admitted to the town hospital, however, where they are relegated to segregated wards.

When Indonesia won its independence from Holland after World War II, following a deep-going national liberation struggle, the nationalist Sukarno regime in Indonesia continued to campaign for an end to Dutch rule in West Papua. West Papua was occupied by the Indonesian military in 1963, not long before Sukarno was overthrown in a bloody military coup in 1965.

The Suharto dictatorship brought to power in that coup subjected the Melanesian people of West Papua to cultural and physical genocide. Indonesian place-names, language, and culture were imposed, and the country renamed Irian Jaya.

The OPM developed in the 1960s in opposition to Indonesian rule over West Papua. It calls for the formation of a unified Melanesian state in New Guinea under the slogan "One people, one soul." Possessing few and mostly out-of-date weapons, it has been able to score significant victories against the well-equipped Indonesian occupation forces, and establish its control over large areas of rural countryside and jungle highlands.

Eugen Lepou is a member of the Meat Workers Union in Auckland.

## Bougainville rebels fight despite military blockade

BY DOUG COOPER

SYDNEY, Australia — The Papua New Guinea government of Prime Minister Julius Chan officially ended an 18-month ceasefire on Bougainville March 21 and moved to tighten its six-year military blockade. The blockade has prevented medicine and food from being received, leading to an untold number of deaths.

Bougainville Revolutionary Army fighters and others have been fighting to secede from Papua New Guinea since December 1988, when a dispute over royalties to local landholders and environmental devastation closed the giant CRA-owned Panguna gold and copper mine. A Bougainville independence movement developed initially prior to Papua New Guinea's independence from Australia in 1975.

Chan's announcement followed a series of military actions by the PNG Defence Force (PNGDF). These included an unprovoked January 3 attack on a high-level delegation returning to Bougainville from December multilateral peace talks in Cairns, Queensland, sponsored by the Australian government. Another assault involved a January 25 massacre of 12 people in the village of Simbo.

On February 1 the home and office of Bougainville Interim Government spokesperson Martin Miriori in Honiara, capital of

neighboring Solomon Islands, was firebombed.

In the week prior to Chan's announcement, 12 PNGDF soldiers were killed in action.

The Chan government came to power in 1994 with the backing of Canberra and pledged to end the war. Alexander Downer, the new conservative Australian foreign minister, "regretted" Chan's decision, saying Canberra "does not believe there can be a military solution to the Bougainville problem." Downer's stance is a continuation of bipartisan pronouncements made prior to the electoral defeat of the federal Labor Party government March 2. Canberra continues to be PNG's major source of all forms of military aid.

The Chan government stepped up pressure on the government of Solomon Islands — which it accuses of providing a haven for Bougainville rebels — through an April 14 military raid on the Solomons village of Kariki and in calls for the extradition of Miriori and others. On April 30 Miriori, who had refugee status in the Solomons, was flown out of Honiara on a special Australian government jet and then to the Netherlands on regular flights. His departure followed the refusal of both the Australian and New Zealand governments to grant him political asylum.